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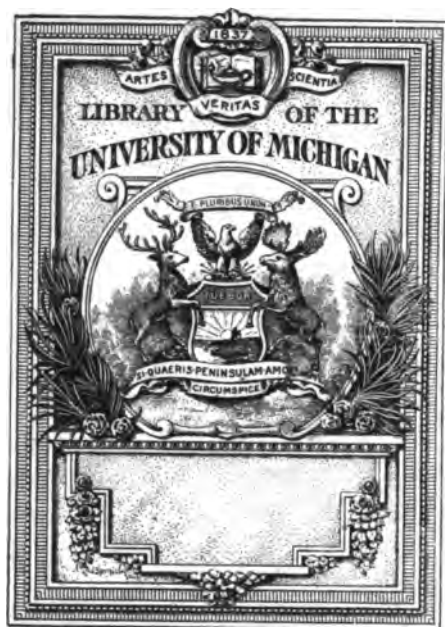
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SEVENTY-SEVEN VOLUMES.

— (11.) —

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COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL)—*continued.*
HONG KONG TO TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Session

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No. 340.

HONG KONG.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 314.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1901.



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HONG KONG,
1900.

HONG KONG.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 314.)

GOVERNOR SIR H. A. BLAKE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Hongkong,

25th September, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1900. The statistics quoted in the Report of the Colonial Secretary show that the Colony is in a sound financial position, and that its business, which is mainly that of a great transshipping port, continues to increase with the expanding trade of the East. The shipping returns show that during the year 1900, 82,456 ships of the aggregate registered tonnage of 18,445,133 tons, carrying 9,862,868 tons of cargo and 2,031,079 passengers arrived and cleared.

2. But this considerable increase of shipping over the previous year by no means represents the enormous increase in the number of ships that entered the harbour during this year of abnormal activity. The Boxer troubles in the North broke out in June, and in July the first contingents of the China Expeditionary Forces began to arrive. Hongkong was practically the British base, and for months the man-of-war anchorage was filled with British and Foreign warships and transports. At first it was feared that there was no available space in which to accommodate the Indian Brigades landed here to await the settlement of details as to future operations. I gave the Major-General Commanding Troops *carte blanche* to occupy every spot of ground on which a tent could be pitched, and sufficient accommodation was found in the immediate neighbourhood. I may add that the conduct of the Indian Troops landed here left nothing to be desired.

3. With the new road now being completed to Taipo, opening up the plains and hillsides of the New Territory, there is now ample accommodation for any number of troops likely to be required in the East.

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HONG KONG
1900.

4. It will be easily understood that with the paralysis of trade in the North on the outbreak of active hostilities the entire trade of China was affected, and the godowns in Hongkong and Shanghai were filled to overflowing with imported merchandise of which the Chinese merchants were slow to take delivery. In the month of September a rebellious movement was started in the district of Weichou, north of the New Territory and Mirs Bay. The movement was not anti-foreign, and the insurgents refrained from interference with the villages in Tung Kun District in which the Basel Missions were established, nor, so far as I could learn, were any atrocities committed by them. It was a movement of a section of reformers that was not joined by the followers of Kang-Yu-Wei. The disturbance lasted for about a fortnight, and collapsed after several engagements with the Viceroy's troops under Admiral Ho, in one or two of which the rebels had some success. About four thousand lives were lost in the fighting, and the movement died out from the want of arms and ammunition, to prevent the smuggling of which the Police of Hongkong left nothing undone. The movement created considerable uneasiness in the district around Canton, one result of which was the transfer of a large amount of Chinese money to Hongkong for investment under the protection of the British flag. This may to some extent account for the increased sale of Crown land at enhanced prices during the year.

5. This small rebellion was, no doubt, attempted in consequence of the pre-occupation of the Imperial Government in the North, possibly with a view of inducing the allied Powers to secure peace in the South by a promise to consider the question of internal reform when the time arrived for the imposition of terms of peace upon the Imperial Government. I have heard from fairly well-informed sources this explanation of the rising. Had the Canton district responded, or had the Viceroy acted with less promptitude, the situation might have become very critical. The movement was distinctly anti-dynastic, as there was in the South among the Cantonese a strong feeling against, not alone the reigning dynasty, but against the people of the Northern provinces—a feeling of hostility apparently reciprocated by the Northern Chinese, who were quite as ready to murder a Cantonese as an American or European, and who look upon them as foreigners, if not “foreign devils.” I had an illustration of this when the Boxer movement developed in Tientsin. A number of Cantonese young men were engaged in business in Tientsin, and some had gone there to attend the Chinese Medical School. These young men were regarded as foreigners, and found themselves in a position of great danger, and with no apparent means of escape. Some Chinese gentlemen here waited upon me, and, explaining the position, requested my good offices in assisting their return to Canton and Hongkong, saying that they were prepared to pay ten thousand dollars for the necessary expenses, as the lives of Cantonese would be

in grave peril if the Boxers had any success. I telegraphed to His Majesty's Consul at Tientsin, asking his assistance in repatriating the Cantonese, for which I undertook to be responsible to the extent of the sum named, and he very kindly made the necessary arrangements, forwarding bills for over nine thousand dollars, which were at once paid by the Chinese gentlemen who had approached me. A deputation of the young men whose escape had been secured waited upon me to express their gratitude, and one and all were assured that had they fallen into the hands of the insurgents their lives would have been taken. The incident was mentioned in the Chinese newspapers in Canton, and has, I hope, had some effect in strengthening the cordial relations that exist at present between the Government of the two Kwangs and this Colony.

HONG KONG,
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6. Among the land sales effected during the year was a large area sold to Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, who propose to build docks there, one of which will be capable of taking in the largest ship now afloat. The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company have applied for an additional area, upon which the Company proposes to add another dry dock of equally large proportions, and, as the Naval Yard extension now progressing includes at least one more dry dock of suitable capacity, the docking facilities of this port will in the near future equal, if not exceed, those of any port in the East.

7. The building of steam-launches proceeds apace, nearly one hundred having been constructed during the year. I question if, in any part of the world, better or cheaper steam-launches are built than those turned out in Hongkong. The extension of the boiler-making trade, due to this expansion of steam-boat building, is now forcing itself upon our attention by complaints of the nuisance created by boiler-makers who have set up their noisy business in quiet quarters of the town, and proceed to prosecute it day and night. It may be necessary to confine this trade to a particular quarter.

8. I regret to have to report the recrudescence of plague at the usual season, the end of February. The epidemic began at the end of February, and lasted 27 weeks, ceasing in the first week in July. During that time there were 1,080 cases, with a case mortality of 95·5 per cent. In 1899 the epidemic lasted for 38 weeks, with 1,428 cases, and a case mortality of 96·1 per cent. In considering this annual recurrence of plague, the situation of Hongkong renders it peculiarly difficult to deal with the introduction of disease from without, for the relief gradually obtained in other places by the death of the susceptible can hardly be looked for here with a perennial influx of susceptible coolies from the surrounding plague-infected provinces. A few hours bring these people to Hongkong, and nothing short of a ten days' detention of from two to three thousand persons who daily enter Hongkong would insure freedom from the introduction of plague by these visitors, while even if all are

HONG KONG, healthy, there must be among them a proportion of susceptibles
1900. to feed the fuel on the appearance of plague.

9. One of the most important questions of the immediate future is the problem of reducing the surface population, the density of which in one health district of Victoria is, in round numbers, six hundred and forty thousand to the square mile, and this in a city crowded under the precipitous northern slope of the Peak range of hills that effectually shut off the south-easterly breezes of the summer months. The abatement of surface crowding by the resumption of houses and opening of streets and lanes will probably cost some millions of dollars, as the value of house property in Victoria is very great, houses being sold at from six dollars to thirty-five dollars a square foot; but the taxation of Hongkong is light compared with that of other Colonies, and sooner or later the question of the abatement of surface overcrowding must be vigorously dealt with.

10. The state of the New Territory taken over in 1899 has been fully dealt with in my despatch of the 12th of last August.* The Financial Accounts of this lately occupied concession afford no reliable basis for an estimate of its ultimate value. Up to the present we have been engaged upon making a good main road that will give ready access to the interior of the Territory, in building Police Stations, and in preparing a cadastral survey, without which, arrangements cannot be made for the payment of Crown Rent and the settlement of land claims, after which I expect to see a rapid development of that portion of the district surrounding the harbour of Hongkong, where the taking over of the Territory has increased the value of land, in some instances literally a thousand-fold, but over every acre of which disputed claims await adjustment by the Land Court. The police expense of the New Territory is also a heavy item, as armed robbery on land and sea is a very common offence, and our preventive patrol system is costly as compared with the somewhat drastic Chinese system of disregarding those local irregularities until they become intolerable, when a force is sent to punish the district by eating it out, or, if necessary, destroying a village or villages. Beyond affording protection and bringing home to the people the fairness and justice of the British system of government, nothing can be done in the New Territory until the land claims have been settled. When that has been done, nothing will remain to prevent its development on a sound and stable basis. The people are intelligent and industrious, and, I am informed, that there is ample capital only awaiting the security of a valid title to be devoted to various agricultural and manufacturing ventures.

11. At present the staple crops are rice, sugar, sweet potatoes, and vegetables. Possibly the rice cultivation is as good as we can make it, but the sugar cultivation is capable of great improvement, and I have reason to believe that sericulture will

* See Colonial Report (Miscellaneous) No. 18.

be tried on a large scale, while I see no reason why, with the further propagation of succulent grasses already growing in the Colony, the hills north of the Kowloon range and the island of Lantau should not support a sufficient number of cattle to render Hongkong independent of the supplies now procured from the West and North Rivers.

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1900

12. Unfortunately during the year the large river steamers that traded between Hongkong and the West River treaty ports were withdrawn in consequence of the difficulties that beset them on account of the strained interpretation by the Imperial Maritime Customs of the inland navigation agreement. The Companies interested asked no more than that they should have the liberty to carry passengers to and from any place on the river, undertaking to confine the carriage of cargo and parcels to the ports and stages already agreed upon, and being prepared, if necessary, to carry a Customs Official on board and to conform to every local regulation as to inspection, &c. This proposal, which I made personally to the Viceroy Li Hung Chang, when on his way to the North, to the Tsung-li Yamen, and to Sir Robert Hart, was accepted by all three. It was referred to a Committee in Canton appointed by the Acting Viceroy, and, for some reason that I have not discovered, it was recommended by them that the proposal should be rejected. I hope that the proposal may yet be accepted, as its adoption would be effective in checking the piracy so difficult to cope with on the West River, by affording to Chinese travelling to Canton with valuable property, or returning with large sums of money, a safe means of transit to their own towns in a British steamer carrying a regular guard.

13. On the 9th of November the Colony was visited by a very severe typhoon, the centre of which passed over the town and harbour. Although due notice had been given of its approach, there was but little precaution taken, as it was assumed that at this season no typhoon would be more violent than an ordinary gale at most. There had been, besides, several typhoons signalled during the summer, the tracks of which went north or south of Hongkong, so people had become careless. The wind reached typhoon force about 10 o'clock at night, the smaller vessels having taken shelter from the north-easterly gale. At 4 a.m. the centre passed over the harbour, and the wind suddenly veered to South-west, when the boats, junks, and steam-launches found themselves on a lee shore. At 7 o'clock, 10 launches and over 110 junks were sunk, and the harbour was a mass of wreckage. H.M.S. *Sandpiper* sank at her moorings, and a large dredger just out from England foundered. Over 200 lives were lost in those fatal three hours. As soon as a launch could live, I went along the shores of Kowloon, the whole sea face of which was a mass of wreckage, among which the Chinese were already hard at work to effect what salvage they could, and I found that the Directors of the Tung Wah Hospital—a charitable Chinese

HONG KONG, 1900. institution—had at once sent out two steam-launches with all the appliances for affording immediate assistance. I mention the fact as I find a widespread idea that the Chinese among themselves are callous and uncharitable—an impression that is entirely opposed to my experience. After the hurricane, a public meeting was held, and a Committee formed to collect subscriptions. In a few days twenty-eight thousand four hundred and thirty-four dollars were subscribed, of which the Chinese subscribed twenty-one thousand three hundred and sixty-three dollars.

14. In the early part of the year the Colony had subscribed \$153,555 to the South African War Fund, so that within twelve months the European and Chinese people of the Colony voluntarily contributed to patriotic and charitable purposes the sum of \$181,990, over and above the ordinary charities of the Colony, a sum equal to over 5½ per cent. of the amount of the public revenue.

I have, &c.,

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor, &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong,

15th August, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the following Report on the Blue Book for 1900:—

I.—FINANCES.

(a.) Revenue.

1. During the last five years the revenue of this Colony has shown a steady increase, which has more than counterbalanced the increasing expenditure. In 1895 the balance of revenue over expenditure showed a deficit of \$486,144.12. In 1900 not only had this deficit been made good, but, notwithstanding an expenditure exceeding that of 1895 by \$655,904.12, the revenue of Hongkong showed a surplus of \$574,140.37.

2. The actual revenue for 1900 was \$3,235,329.61, exclusive of the amounts derived from Land Sales and the Water Account, which amounted to \$816,222.92 and \$151,034.87 respectively.

*(b.) Expenditure.*HONG KONG
1900.

3. On the other hand the Expenditure amounted to \$3,628,447.13, of which a sum of \$473,205.89 was expended on Public Works Extraordinary.

(c.) Land Sales.

4. The amount received from Land Sales, \$816,222.92, showed an excess over the Land Sales in 1899 of \$198,398.20.

5. I append tables* showing:—

- (a.) The heads of revenue.
- (b.) The heads of expenditure.
- (c.) The total revenue and expenditure for the six years—1895-1900.
- (d.) The assets and liabilities of the Colony.
- (e.) The amount of paper currency in circulation.

(d.) Taxation.

6. Taxation in Hongkong still remains comparatively light, though the cost of living is high, owing to the increase in the price of food and the difficulty of obtaining house accommodation at a reasonable figure. There were no important changes in Taxation during the year.

(e.) Public Debt.

7. In 1899 the Sinking Fund, which was created three years previously with a view to gradually paying off the public debt of £341,799 15s. 1d., incurred by Government for the purpose of defraying the cost of certain Public Works, some of them, such as Markets and Waterworks, of a remunerative nature, stood at £12,625 18s. 11d., and during the past financial year it rose to £16,485 13s. 2d.

8. With provision so satisfactorily made for the liquidation of the public debt, and with a revenue naturally increasing from year to year, the financial stability of the Colony appears to be assured.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(a.) Imports and Exports.

1. I append tables* showing:—

- (a.) The principal articles of import during the years 1899 and 1900 in vessels of European construction.
- (b.) The total tonnage of imports and exports for the last five years.
- (c.) The imports and exports of junks in foreign and local trade during 1899 and 1900.

* Not printed.

HONG KONG.
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2. The total import trade of the port for 1900 amounted to 23,205 vessels, of 8,626,614 tons, carrying 6,342,138 tons of cargo, of which 4,198,389 tons were discharged at Hongkong. This does not include the local junk trade. The nett increase in imports thus amounted to 422,717 tons.

3. In exports there was a decrease of 70,666 tons.

4. The chief articles of import are coal, rice, sugar, and flour. Tea, kerosine oil, rice and paddy, and general cargo are the principal exports.

5. There has been a great increase in the amount of sugar imported, amounting to no less than 76.6 per cent. Similarly the import of timber, flour, coal, and hemp shows increases of 66.1 per cent., 65.7 per cent., and 60.7 per cent. respectively. The trade in bulk oil is almost at a standstill as compared with last year; but case oil shows a decrease of 10,609 tons. The rice trade, which reached its culminating point last year, has diminished by 98,801 tons, and may now be said to be at its normal condition.

(b.) *Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.*

6. There are no mines in the Colony; but there are granite quarries situated at Shauiwán and Kowloon, the output of which during the year under review was valued at \$45,000 and \$80,000 respectively.

7. The industries of the Colony include dock work, launch building, boat building, cement manufacture, paper making, sugar refining, brick and tile making, rope making, iron foundries, boiler making, glass manufacture, vermilion manufacture, and opium boiling. One hundred steam launches and other vessels, with a total burden of 3,755 tons, were built in the Colony during the year. The dock accommodation is to be largely increased in the near future.

8. The number of ships and boats employed in fishery during the year may be roughly estimated at 7,000; but it is impossible to ascertain the description and the quantity of fish caught, or the actual value of the fishing trade.

9. Two thousand nine hundred and three (2,903) rowing boats, 2,030 cargo boats and lighters, and 92 steam launches were licensed to ply for hire within the waters of the Colony during the year.

(c.) *Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.*

10. It is estimated that in 1900 the acreage of cultivated land in the island of Hongkong was 406 acres; in Kowloon 404 acres; and in the New Territory, including the islands, about 90,000 acres. Beyond the cultivation of rice and sugar, and of vegetable gardens, there is practically no agricultural industry in

the old Colony or in the New Territory. It is proposed to try an experimental stock farm in the New Territory, where, if the grass be found good, it ought to be possible to rear cattle required for consumption in Hongkong. The industry of cattle raising in the New Territory seems never to have been attempted beyond the number required for field work.

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11. The revenue from plant sales was \$761.80, an increase of \$135.20 over that for 1899. The revenue from loan of plants was \$55.39 less than in the previous year. The Government does not make any profit over the sale or loan of plants, the public obtaining them at a price which only covers the actual cost of production.

12. The quantity of land under sugar cultivation in the New Territory is estimated at over 7,000 acres.

13. The advisability of establishing an experimental garden in the New Territory, for the purpose of testing the suitability of economic plants to the soil and climate, is under consideration.

14. Five thousand five hundred and eighty (5,580) trees were planted in Hongkong Island during the year, and 81,154 in the New Territory.

15. The year has been fortunate as regards forest fires, only 25 having been reported, with a destruction of 2,067 trees, as compared with 52 fires and 13,299 trees in the previous year.

(d.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

16. I append a table* giving particulars of land sales, extensions, and grants on short leases made during the year under review.

17. The owners of 53 lots on the Praya Reclamation, amounting to 290,239 square feet, were permitted to enter into occupation. This Reclamation, authorised by Ordinance No. 16 of 1889, was commenced in 1890, and is now approaching completion. An area of 50 acres has been reclaimed, and the remaining area, amounting to about ten (10) acres, is more than half finished.

18. There were two free grants of land at Kowloon—one of 30,000 feet to the Church Missionary Society for the erection of a Home for Chinese girls at Kau Pui Shek; and the other of 15,000 square feet to the Hildesheim Mission for Blind Girls at To Kwa Wan.

19. The principal item under extensions during the year was Quarry Bay Marine Lot 2, the area so granted amounting to 323,800 square feet, Crown rent \$1,487, and premium \$32,380. This extension has been purchased for the purpose of constructing a dock.

20. Seven lots in Hongkong were granted on short leases, while at Kowloon similar grants of seven inland lots were made.

* Not printed.

HONG KONG,
1900.
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21. The demand for land, as evidenced by the larger sales effected, necessitated an unusual amount of work in the survey branch. Special surveys were also made in connection with extension of water storage in Tytam Valley and the military reserve north of Austin Road, Kowloon. In all, it is estimated that nearly 1,000 acres were surveyed.

(e.) *Shipping.*

22. I append tables* showing:—

- (a.) The comparative shipping return for the years 1899 and 1900.
- (b.) A comparative statement of the total shipping entered and cleared between the years 1896-1900 inclusive.
- (c.) An analysis of shipping (British and foreign steamers) entered and cleared in 1899 and 1900.
- (d.) An analysis of shipping (British and foreign sail) entered and cleared in 1899 and 1900.
- (e.) A return of junk shipping in 1899 and 1900.

23. The tonnage of British ships entering the harbour of the Colony during 1900 was 4,588,610 tons, and clearing 4,566,588 tons.

24. The German shipping showed next with 959,173 tons entering and 958,571 clearing.

25. Then follow in order the Japanese, French, Chinese, American, Norwegian, and Austrian flags.

26. The tonnage of Chinese junks entering and clearing was 1,604,632 and 1,620,224 respectively; and of Chinese ships, other than junks, 136,765 and 138,507 respectively.

27. The total of foreign ocean-going tonnage which entered and cleared was 2,425,086 and 2,425,311 respectively.

28. The comparative shipping return for the years 1899 and 1900 shows, in the case of vessels under the British flag, an increase of 103 ships, measuring 430,182 tons; but there was a decrease in the river trade under the British flag of 111 vessels of 58,317 tons. This may be ascribed to the fact that certain British steamers engaged in the West River trade were sold.

29. Many of the Chinese merchant steamers were transferred to the British flag. There was an increase in the percentage of "tramp" steamers, principally carrying coal. The size of many of the steamers of the regular lines on the home routes, especially of the German Steamers, has increased in a marked degree.

30. The Scottish Oriental Steamship Co. was transferred to the German flag, thus increasing German tonnage by 62,057 tons in arrivals, and 68,806 tons in departures.

* Not printed.

31. As compared with 1899, the British tonnage increased by **Hong Kong,** 4.93 per cent., and the foreign tonnage by 3.20 per cent. **1900.**

III.—LEGISLATION.

1. There were in all 36 Ordinances passed during last year. Of these, six were Naturalization Ordinances, while 17 were concerned with the amendment of Ordinances already in force.

2. Three Ordinances were passed in connection with the New Territory, by far the widest in scope being Ordinance No. 30, under which the operation of such laws of this Colony as were not already in force in the New Territories was extended to a certain portion of those territories.

3. It was during last year that the Chief Justice, Sir John Carrington, made his generous offer to prepare a new edition of the Hongkong Ordinances, and accordingly at the close of the year a Bill was passed to make provision for the preparation and publication of a new and revised edition of the Statute Laws of the Colony. The first step was thus taken towards a much needed codification of the laws of Hongkong.

4. Ordinances were also passed for the establishment of a hospital for infectious diseases in connection with the Tung Wa Hospital; for the imposition of fees for the issue by the Government of Hongkong of certain certificates to certain Chinese; and for the provision of more effectual means to ensure the observance, by those in charge of certain steam-launches, of reasonable precautions against piracy and robbery.

IV.—EDUCATION.

1. At the close of 1900 there were in this Colony 13 Government schools and 91 Grant-in-aid schools, purporting to give an education to 7,481 children. Of this number, no less than 1,440 scholars are claimed by Queen's College. The remaining 103 schools are thus left with an average of not quite 59 pupils each, the smallest number in any given school being 12. This state of affairs cannot be considered satisfactory, and it seems desirable while diminishing the number of educational centres to cultivate greater uniformity in the system and object of teaching adopted by the various scholastic establishments.

2. There are five schools in the Colony—Queen's College being by far the most considerable—which give an education both in English and in Chinese. Twenty-one schools offer an education in English only, while in the remainder only Chinese is taught.

3. No satisfactory provision for the education of European children exists in Hongkong. Whilst European parents prefer to have their sons and daughters educated at home, a preference dictated by climatic and other reasons, there are not a few Europeans now in the Colony who are unable to afford to send

Hong Kong, their children to Europe. It would seem only just that educational facilities which are at present wanting should be afforded for such children.

4. The education of Chinese should have as its two objects the instruction of the native pupils in their own language, and in English. Anything further would seem at present to be premature, save in the case of a very few exceptionally clever scholars. If the Chinese boy on leaving school is equipped with a sound knowledge of English, his so-called "secondary" education may confidently be left in his own hands, and its evolution will depend on circumstance and opportunity. It is more than doubtful whether this principle is at present realized with sufficient clearness.

V.—PUBLIC WORKS.

1. The total expenditure on Public Works during the year was a sum of \$683,946.74. This shows an increase of \$232,581.23 over the expenditure under this head in 1899.

2. The designs for the new Law Courts were prepared in England by the Consulting Architects to the Colonial Office. The plans for the piled foundations were prepared locally, a satisfactory contract for the work was let in July, 1900, and good progress has since been made.

3. A new Police Station was built on a site selected above the Cattle Depôts on the road leading to the Pokfulam Road. The work was completed on the 1st October. Police Stations are also being built at Saikung and Shataukok in the New Territory.

4. The Public Works Department Store at Wanchai was completed early in the year. All stores previously deposited at Crosby Store in Queen's Road and in a rented building on Praya East were then removed to the new store, where they were arranged and catalogued.

5. The construction of two new latrines was completed during the year, while three more are being built. A chair shelter for coolies has also been constructed at the Peak Tram Station.

6. Good progress was made on the Pokfulam Conduit Road during the year, and plans and estimates are ready for its completion as far as a junction with Robinson Road. It has been decided that the Harlech Road at the Peak should be taken over and completed by the military authorities, to give access to sites for batteries on the High West and for buildings beyond to the North of the hill's saddle. The trunk road to Táipó in the New Territory is still in course of construction.

7. A contract for building a Peak Residence for the Governor has been let, and fair progress was made during the year. The stone foundations of the main building are well advanced, and

the wood-work of the doors and windows was in course of pre-
paration.

HONG KONG
1900.

8. On the 29th November, the Governor opened to the public a new pier opposite the end of Pedder Street, 200 feet long by 40 feet wide, now known as Blake Pier. The base was designed to carry the new Clock Tower which it is proposed to erect to take the place of that which stands in Pedder Street, and which has become an obstruction to the traffic.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(a.) Hospitals.

1. A total number of 2,913 cases were admitted into the Government Civil Hospital during the year 1900, showing an increase of 1 per cent. over the number of admissions in the previous year. Two hundred and twenty-five operations were performed, of which only seven ended fatally.

2. Fifty-four (54) cases were admitted into the Maternity Hospital, as against 36 in 1899. Six deaths occurred among the patients.

3. The hospital hulk *Hygeia* was not used during the year, as the accommodation at the Kennedy Town Hospital is now sufficient. It is proposed to use the *Hygeia* for quarantined passengers under examination.

4. One hundred and seven (107) cases of plague were treated at the Kennedy Town Infectious Hospital during the year, with a mortality of 77.5 per cent.; 83 cases ended fatally. Fifteen cases of beri-beri, with one death, were also treated.

5. The admissions to the gaol hospital numbered 495, as compared with 503 in 1899. Six deaths occurred from natural causes, and there were two executions.

6. The number of patients in the wards of the Tung Wa Hospital at the beginning of the year was 154; 2,981 were admitted during 1900, making a total of 3,135 cases treated. There were 1,267 deaths, the high rate of mortality being due to the fact that the lower classes of the Chinese community regard this hospital as not alone a place for the treatment of diseases, but also a refuge in which to die. A free site has been granted on the western side of Inland Lot 1,082 for the erection of a permanent branch hospital for the treatment of contagious diseases. This new hospital will take the place of the temporary matsheds which have hitherto been built for the reception of infectious cases.

(b.) Lunatic Asylum.

7. The Lunatic Asylum is divided into European and Chinese wards. 109 patients were admitted. There was an increase in the number of Chinese patients treated, viz., 97 as against 59 in 1899.

HONG KONG,
1900.

(c.) *Reformatory.*

8. The Belilios Reformatory was opened during 1900, but at the close of the year no case had been admitted.

(d.) *Public Mortuary.*

9. During the year 1,712 bodies were removed to the Public Mortuary.

(e.) *Vaccine Institute and Government Laboratory.*

10. The Vaccine Institute has been working throughout the year under the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, and the lymph has, as usual, given satisfaction. 321 articles were examined during the year in the Government Laboratory.

(f.) *Pò Léung Kuk.*

11. I append a return* showing the work of the Pò Léung Kuk, a society for the protection of women and children, for the year 1900. The number of persons admitted to the home was 337, as against 252 in 1899. The balance to the credit of the fund was \$13,697.99 at the close of 1900, and the subscriptions for the year show an increase of \$1,459.80 over the subscriptions for 1899. At the beginning of the year the services of a female teacher were engaged, and the inmates now receive regular elementary instruction.

(g.) *Fire Brigade.*

12. At the commencement of the year, the Nam Pak Hong Fire Brigade was re-organized and placed under the immediate supervision of the officers of the Government Fire Brigade, which is itself a sub-department of the Police and under the control of the Captain Superintendent of Police. The Nam Pak Hong now maintains, at its own cost, six trained firemen, while two firemen of the Government Brigade reside in the station house with them.

13. There were 51 fires and 74 incipient fires during the year, causing an estimated damage of \$130,599.73 and \$729.10 respectively. The brigade turned out 61 times during the year.

(h.) *Police.*

14. The total strength of the Police Force, which stood at 630 in 1898, and at 827 in 1899, has been increased to 929, an increase necessitated by additional work in connection with the New Territory. To keep pace with this increase in the numbers of the men, the staff of officers, which had previously consisted

* Not printed.

only of a Captain Superintendent of Police and a Deputy Superintendent of Police, was doubled by the appointment of two Assistant Superintendents of Police, though only one of these was actually employed in police work during the year. Hong Kong
1900

15. New Police Stations at Kennedy Town and at Shataukok were completed and occupied by the Police on the 1st and 20th October respectively, while new stations are also in course of construction at West Point and at Saikung.

16. The conduct of the contingent was on the whole satisfactory, several sergeants and constables being rewarded for their energy and zeal.

(i.) *Prison.*

17. Victoria gaol at the present time contains 500 separate cells and 14 association cells. It is thus possible to confine 514 persons on the separate system; while in case of emergency 570 persons could be confined by placing five prisoners in each association cell. The daily average of prisoners in the gaol numbered 486 in 1900, as compared with 434 in the previous year, and 510 in 1898. The sanitary condition of the gaol was good.

18. There were 125 prisoners convicted from the New Territory during the year.

19. One hundred and seventy-six (176) prisoners were employed on non-productive labour during 1900. The remaining 310 were utilised either in manufactures, in building, or in the service of the prison, and the profit on this labour for the year amounted to \$8,394.25.

VII.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

1. I append tables* showing:—

- (a.) The number of summary convictions in the Police Court for various classes of offences, and the kind of punishment inflicted.
- (b.) The number of indictments and informations in the Supreme Court of Hongkong.
- (c.) A comparison of the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last five years.

2. There was an increase in serious offences of 140 cases, or 4.12 per cent., and in minor offences of 710 cases, or 12.6 per cent. It was found early in the year that one Police Magistrate could not cope with the constantly increasing work, and accordingly a Magistrate was appointed to hear cases at Táipó, in the New Territory, while a Second Magistrate was also appointed to act in the Police Court at Victoria.

3. Two murderers were convicted and hanged in 1900.

* Not printed.

HONG KONG,
1900.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(a.) *Population.*

1. The population of the Colony, at the Census taken in January, 1897, was 248,880, while at the Census taken in January, 1901, it was 283,975, exclusive of the Army and Navy, which amounted to 13,237 (Army 7,640, Navy 5,597). The total population of the Colony, including the Army and Navy, was estimated at 283,418 up to the middle of 1900.

2. The population of the New Territory, which is exclusively Chinese, was estimated at 100,000 in the year 1899.

(b.) *Public Health.*

3. Nine hundred and thirty-nine (939) births and 6,773 deaths were registered during the year. This is equal to a general birth-rate of 3.3 per 1,000, as compared with 4.3 per 1,000 in 1899, and to a general death-rate of 23.9 per 1,000, as compared with 23.8 per 1,000 in 1899.

4. The Matshed Hospital at Kennedy Town was re-opened for the reception of plague cases, and was in use from the 16th May to 15th August. The number of admissions was 224, of whom 200 died. In addition to this, 107 cases of plague were treated in the Kennedy Town Hospital itself, with a mortality of 77.5 per cent. The total number of cases reported during the year was 1,082, and the total number of deaths was 1,034, as against 1,486 and 1,428 in the preceding year.

5. There were only 17 deaths from small-pox last year; whereas in the three previous years the numbers had been 35, 110, and 209. This continued decrease has resulted in a marked apathy in regard to vaccination, the total number of vaccinations recorded being 2,123 less than in 1899.

6. The number of deaths from beri-beri almost doubled during the year, the disease being confined to the Chinese population.

7. Malarial and enteric fevers were more prevalent than in 1899. There was a considerable mortality among the troops from malarial fever.

8. In connection with this question of malaria an interesting experiment was tried. The military sanatorium has been abandoned for several years on account of the continued suffering of the troops stationed there from malarial fever. Under the advice of Dr. Young, employed in the China Expeditionary Force, the brushwood was cut down for a distance of three to four hundred yards, swampy places were drained, and anopheles pools filled in. For several months a company of Indian troops has been stationed at the sanatorium, and the health of the men is excellent.

*(c.) Sanitation.*HONG KONG,
1900.

9. Under the provisions of the Insanitary Properties Ordinance of 1899, a large number of buildings throughout the Colony have now been provided with back-yards. The result is a perceptible improvement in the lighting and ventilation of the back part of these dwellings.

10. The questions of the excessive height of buildings, and of the resumption of insanitary or obstructive buildings are also engaging the attention of the Government.

11. The City of Victoria is divided into ten Health Districts, with an Inspector of Nuisances in charge of each. There are also five first-class Inspectors for the City, each of whom has the general supervision of two districts.

12. Of the ten Health Districts, Nos. 5 and 6, which are situated in the centre of the city, show acute surface overcrowding, while Districts 9, 4, 8, and 7 are almost as densely crowded. The average density of population in the whole city is 126 persons per acre, or a percentage of 65 persons per acre in excess of that of Glasgow, itself the most densely crowded of the 36 large towns of Great Britain. It is hoped that the projected construction of tramways from East to West Point may help to relieve this congestion.

13. Towards the close of the year the Sanitary and Building Ordinances of the Colony were extended to that portion of New Territory between the shore and the first range of the Kowloon hills, thus bringing an area on the mainland of 18 square miles, with a sea-frontage of some ten miles, within the jurisdiction of the Sanitary Board.

(d.) Climate.

14. The total rainfall for the year was 73.73 inches, as compared with 72.7 inches in 1899. The wettest month was June, the driest was September.

15. The average daily amount of sunshine throughout the year was 5.03 hours, and on 28 days only was no sunshine recorded.

16. The average monthly temperature during the year was 71.6° F., as compared with 71.9° in the previous year. The monthly temperature was highest in August and lowest in January. The highest recorded temperature during the year being 97° F. in the former month, and the lowest 37.5° F. in the latter.

17. I append a table* showing the direction and force of the wind. The most memorable storm during the year was the typhoon of the 9th and 10th November.

That typhoon began on the night of the 9th, increasing in intensity with the wind from N.E. About 3 a.m., the centre

* Not printed.

HONG KONG, 1900. — passed over Hongkong, when the wind blew with terrific force from the S.W., and within four hours over 110 junks and 10 steam-launches were sunk, with a loss of about 200 lives. H.M.S. *Sandpiper* sank at her moorings, her crew being, with one exception, gallantly rescued by H.M.S. *Otter*, under command of Lieutenant Wilkin, R.N. The dredger *Canton River*, a large vessel just out from England for work on the Naval Dock, was also blown over and sunk. One man was washed off the wreck. The remainder of the crew were rescued with difficulty by a boat from H.M.S. *Tamar*, under command of Lieutenant the Honourable Fitz Walter Butler, R.N.

IX.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

(a.) *Post.*

1. The troubles in the North of China, and the consequent despatch of the China Expeditionary Force, added very considerably to the work of the Post Office. There was a nett increase of 387,050 in the total of international and local correspondence dealt with as compared with the previous year.

2. The Indian Postal Administration opened a Base Post Office in Hongkong, and to that office everything received at the General Post Office for the China Field Force was immediately sent.

3. The trouble in the North has also delayed the completion of the Convention for the Partial Postal Union between this Colony and China, which had already been forwarded for execution. This Convention should certainly be completed as soon as circumstances will permit.

4. The sale of stamps in Hongkong realized \$217,612.24, or \$820.79 more than in the previous year. It is hoped that the increasing volume of correspondence will gradually remove the loss of \$16,404.32 which was incurred in 1899 owing to the adoption of the penny postage to the United Kingdom and to the majority of the British Colonies.

5. The nett profit on the year's transactions at the Hongkong Post Office was \$90,340.25. This shows a gratifying increase of \$10,333.65 over the previous year's balance.

(b.) *Telephones.*

6. All the Government telephone lines have been kept in good repair. Considerable expenditure was found to be necessary in the New Territory, where most of the poles are of timber. The Police Station at San Tin was connected by telephone with

Táipó, new switchboards were installed at the Central and Tsim Hong Kong, Shá Tsui Police Stations, whereby a great improvement in 1900. efficiency was effected.

X.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

1. I append a return* showing the number and nature of the military forces employed in the Colony during 1900.

(a.) *Regular Forces.*

2. The total strength of troops in garrison on the 30th June was 2,116, as compared with 3,098 in the previous year. There were in addition 81 British women with 150 British children, and 82 Asiatic women with 139 Asiatic children on the strength. The reduction in the number of the troops in the Colony at the mid-year is explained by the absence of a large number on service with the China Expeditionary Force in the North.

3. At the Census taken in January, 1901, there were 5,501 officers and men, with 2,139 camp followers resident in the Colony, making a total of 7,640.

4. The Colony contributed \$591,789.78 (17½ per cent. of its revenue) in aid of military expenditure in Hongkong, besides \$24,800.00 for defence works, making a total of \$616,589.78. There was no expenditure towards barrack service during the year.

(b.) *Volunteer Forces.*

5. The total establishment of the Volunteer Corps was 366 of all ranks, as against 350 in 1899.

6. The expenditure on this Corps, which is borne entirely by the Colony, was \$39,096.33 for the year.

(c.) *Constabulary.*

7. The European Police, 153 in number, and the Indian Police, 366 in number, are a Constabulary Force, being armed with Martini-Enfield carbines.

GENERAL.

Taking everything into consideration, I think the general progress of the Colony, during the year 1900, may be regarded

* Not printed.

HONG KONG, as satisfactory. Its financial position is sound, and its trade has
1900. been good. The recurrence of plague is the most unsatisfactory
— feature. Every effort should be continued to get rid of this
pest. It is sincerely to be hoped that those improvements in the
sanitary condition of the Colony, which all desire to see effected
as soon as possible, may help to get rid of this disease altogether,
or at any rate prevent its becoming a regular visitor.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G.,
Governor, &c.

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No. 369.

HONG KONG.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 340.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1902.



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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
346	Northern Nigeria	1900-1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900-1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900-1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar	"
360	Straits Settlements	"
361	Sierra Leone	"
362	British Honduras	"
363	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
364	Seychelles	"
365	Bahamas	1901-1902
366	Fiji	1901
367	Ceylon	"
368	Barbados	1901-1902

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Wei-Hai-Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 369.

H O N G K O N G .

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 340.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR GASCOIGNE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Hong Kong, August 29th, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following general Report in connection with the Blue Book for 1901.

I.—FINANCES.

The Revenue for the year 1901, exclusive of land sales, was \$3,973,578, or \$636,523 more than the estimate; inclusive of land sales the total Revenue was \$4,213,893. The Expenditure, exclusive of the cost of Public Works Extraordinary, was \$3,723,249, or \$455,317 more than the estimate; including the heavy outlay on Public Works Extraordinary, the total expenditure was \$4,111,722. There was thus an excess of Revenue over Expenditure of \$102,171.

The sources of Revenue which proved most productive and were chiefly responsible for the excess of actual over estimated receipts were the opium monopoly, the assessed taxes, chair and jinricksha and some other forms of licences, the Post Office, and stone quarries.

The items which yielded a smaller sum than the estimate were not numerous, and represented no very large amounts, with the exception of the item of New Territory Land Revenue, from which a sum of \$140,000 had been anticipated and only \$28,783 received. This return, however, compares well with that of 1900, when only \$1,300 was collected from this source. As has already been pointed out in New Territory reports, the difficulties in connection with the settlement of land claims make the collection of Crown rent a slow process.

The figures quoted above do not represent the whole of the revenue derived from the New Territory during 1901, as they do not include its share in the considerable increases to General Revenue derived from the opium monopoly and other miscellaneous sources.

The amount realised from land sales was much less than that realised in 1900. In that year more than \$816,000 was received from this source; in 1901 only \$240,315, or nearly \$160,000 less than the estimate.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.
The following is a brief abstract of the heads of Revenue and Expenditure for 1900 and 1901:—

Revenue.		1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
—	—				
Light dues ...	...	55,379.38	58,375.98	2,996.60	\$ —
Licences and internal revenue not otherwise specified	...	1,847,272.78	2,270,145.69	422,872.91	—
Fees of court, &c. ...	...	285,386.11	284,463.22	—	992.89
Post Office ...	...	325,603.33	355,912.74	30,309.41	—
Rent of Government property ...	...	482,777.27	555,469.58	72,692.31	—
Interest ...	...	—	1.14	1.14	—
Miscellaneous ...	...	288,910.74	280,100.36	41,189.62	—
Water account ...	...	151,034.87	169,119.45	18,084.58	—
Land sales ...	...	816,222.92	440,815.06	—	575,907.86
Total ...	...	4,202,587.40	4,213,893.22	588,146.57	576,840.75
				Deduct Decrease ...	\$ 576,840.75
				Nett Increase ...	\$ 11,806.89

12765

Expenditure.

—	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
Charge on account of public debt...	\$ 153,363.07	\$ 162,363.84	\$ 9,000.77	\$ —
Pensions, departmental expenditures, military contribu- tion, &c.	3,001,878.17	3,560,885.60	559,007.43	—
Public works extraordinary	473,205.89	388,473.05	—	84,732.84
Total	3,628,447.13	4,111,722.49	568,008.20	84,732.84
Deduct Decrease ... \$				
Nett Increase ... \$				

Revenue for 1901	...	...	...	...	\$ 4,213,893.22
Expenditure for 1901	...	...	...	...	4,111,722.49
Surplus	...	...	...	...	\$102,170.73

Total Revenue and Expenditure for the Five Years 1897-1901.

—	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Revenue	2,686,914.70	2,918,159.24	3,610,143.25	4,202,587.40	4,213,893.22
Expenditure	2,641,409.71	2,841,805.20	3,162,792.36	3,628,447.13	4,111,722.49
Surplus	45,504.99	76,354.04	447,350.89	574,140.27	102,170.73

(B.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

At the end of the year under review the total Assets of the Colony amounted to \$2,023,581.60, and the Liabilities to \$987,058.06, thus leaving a credit balance of \$1,036,523.54, not including certain arrears of Revenue amounting to \$61,132.

(C.) PUBLIC DEBT.

Loan Account.

Dr.		Cr.	
To Inscribed Stock Loan at 3½% interest, to be paid off on the 15th April, 1943.	£ 341,799 15 1	By Sinking Fund	£ 20,363 12 8

II.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES, FISHERIES, AGRICULTURE AND LAND.

(A.) TRADE AND SHIPPING.

The following table shows the principal articles of import in the year 1901 in vessels of European construction, compared with similar returns for 1900. The figures represent the tonnage:—

Articles.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
Beans	560	1,290	730	—
Coal	1,045,812	917,144	—	128,668
Cotton yarn and cotton ...	19,993	14,423	—	5,570
Flour	154,111	145,287	—	8,824
Hemp	54,105	31,195	—	22,910
Kerosine (bulk)	64,732	70,723	5,996	—
" (case)	69,979	77,977	7,998	—
Liquid fuel	2,759	3,973	1,214	—
Lead	2,350	260	—	2,090
Opium	3,194	2,872	—	322
Rattan	10,204	3,488	—	6,716
Rice	673,029	618,780	—	54,249
Sandalwood	3,811	5,272	1,461	—
Sulphur	22	55	33	—
Sugar	238,863	241,291	2,428	—
Tea	6,393	1,473	—	4,920
Timber	82,311	66,860	—	15,451
General	1,172,094	1,278,619	106,525	—
Total	3,604,322	3,480,987	126,385	249,720
Transit	2,143,749	2,134,585	—	9,164
Grand Total	5,748,071	5,615,572	126,385	258,884
Nett			—	132,499

There was a considerable decrease in coal imports as compared with 1900, but the amount imported in 1900 was far above the average. The coal imports for 1898, also, were stated to have been abnormally large, but the returns for last year show an increase as compared with that year of nearly 100,000 tons.

The principal features to be remarked in the reported trade of the Port for the year 1901 are:—

- (1.) A decrease in the coal imports of 12·3 per cent.
- (2.) A decrease in the cotton imports of 27·8 per cent.

- (3.) A decrease in the rice imports of 8 per cent.
- (4.) A decrease in the timber imports of 18·7 per cent.
- (5.) A decrease in the hemp imports of 42·3 per cent.
- (6.) An increase in the general imports of 9·8 per cent.
- (7.) Also small increases in case and bulk kerosine and in liquid fuel.

The nett decrease in import cargo is 123,335 tons or 3·4 per cent.

In exports there appears to be an increase of 150,823 tons or 7·7 per cent.

In transit cargo, a decrease of 9,163 tons or 10·4 per cent.

The import trade was very depressed throughout the year. In the interior of China there was much poverty, and trade was hampered by unauthorised exactions on goods beyond the confines of the Treaty Ports. The fall in the exchange of silver and the high values ruling on the home markets—especially in raw cotton and all cotton fabrics—also militated severely against this branch of trade.

The opium trade was far from prosperous during the past year. In the Bengal drug, owing to large stocks early in the season and a declining exchange in the latter half of the year, the business done, though considerable, was productive of loss to both importers and native dealers. The demand for Malwa was poor and disappointing, and the prices obtained left no margin for profit. Owing to the Formosan Government being practically the only buyer of superior Persian, the rates for this drug fell from \$825 per picul, the opening quotation, to \$640 per picul in the latter end of the year.

As regards the trade in Indian cotton yarn, the year under review shows a decidedly marked improvement over the previous twelve months.

The imports to Hong Kong and Shanghai, which showed a shrinkage of close upon 60 per cent. in 1900, increased again over 100 per cent. during the past twelve months, whilst sales in Hong Kong showed an excess of 45,715 bales and those in Shanghai of 69,083 bales.

A great and important movement has taken place which has opened the whole of the markets of inland China to the world. Manufacturers on the spot will certainly be unable, at least for some time, to meet the greatly increased demand which will thus be occasioned; and in the meantime India may fairly hope to reap some share of the harvest, more especially if Lakin—a veritable millstone round the neck of this trade—is effectually removed.

The following figures are of interest:—

Comparative Tables of Imports and Exports and Reported Sales of Indian Grey Yarn effected in Hong Kong and Shanghai during the years 1876 to 1901.

Year.	Imports to Hong Kong from India.	Direct shipments from India to Shanghai and Japan.	Total Imports to China and Japan.	Total Sales effected in Hong Kong.	Total Sales in Shanghai.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
1876	17,598	—	17,598	6,758	—
1877	30,288	—	30,289	17,806	—
1878	37,799	—	37,799	30,031	—
1879	47,338	6,721	54,059	42,093	—
1880	60,265	3,980	64,245	49,571	—
1881	55,705	7,834	63,539	54,411	—
1882	82,286	6,458	88,744	77,945	—
1883	97,200	16,514	113,714	89,889	—
1884	137,075	12,858	149,933	112,450	—
1885	150,221	27,954	178,175	147,894	—
1886	175,291	50,089	225,380	142,974	—
1887	178,790	88,435	267,225	182,152	—
1888	187,368	90,242	277,610	182,198	—
1889	225,457	104,850	330,307	197,941	55,401
1890	209,689	167,353	377,042	187,330	104,016
1891	218,732	171,130	389,862	161,504	134,337
1892	237,569	186,305	423,874	219,189	154,386
1893	207,935	119,625	327,560	171,491	112,786
1894	237,260	146,121	384,381	169,117	129,938
1895	257,803	144,250	402,053	213,854	120,911
1896	258,367	244,376	500,743	215,375	151,935
1897	279,412	167,623	447,035	187,948	117,861
1898	308,978	168,467	477,445	221,144	147,678
1899	315,369	238,307	603,676	205,441	167,860
1900	153,610	110,409	264,019	152,277	125,796
1901	291,885	228,688	520,573	197,992	194,879

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage entering and clearing during the year 1901 amounted to 19,325,384 tons, being an increase, compared with 1900, of 880,248 tons, and the same in excess of any previous year. Of this increase, 165,128 tons are due to the fact that steam launches trading to ports outside the Colony have been included this year, whereas in former years they have been returned separately.

There were 45,349 arrivals of 9,681,203 tons, and 45,171 departures of 9,644,181 tons.

Of British ocean-going tonnage, 2,917,780 tons entered, and 2,897,200 tons cleared.

Of British river steamers, 1,697,242 tons entered, and 1,701,417 tons cleared, making a grand total of British tonnage of 9,213,639 tons entering and clearing.

Of foreign ocean-going tonnage, 2,637,552 tons entered, and 2,609,902 tons cleared.

Of foreign river steamers, 48,545 tons entered, and 49,503 tons cleared, making a grand total of foreign tonnage of 5,345,430 tons entering and clearing.

Of steam launches trading to ports outside the Colony, 82,564 tons entered, and 82,564 tons cleared.

Of junks in foreign trade, 1,631,272 tons entered, and 1,634,896 tons cleared.

Of junks in local trade, 666,248 tons entered, and 668,699 tons cleared.

Thus—

				Per cent.
British ocean-going tonnage represented ...				30.1
„ river „ „ ...				17.2
Foreign ocean-going „ „ ...				27.5
„ river „ „ ...				0.5
Steam launches „ „ ...				0.9
Junks (foreign trade) „ „ ...				16.9
„ (local trade) „ „ ...				6.9

The actual number of ships of European construction (exclusive of river steamers and steam launches) entering the Port during 1901 was 682, being 337 British and 345 foreign. Thus 682 vessels entered 3,570 times, and gave a total tonnage of 5,555,332 tons. A comparison of the Shipping Returns for 1900 and 1901 appears in the following table, from which it will be seen that though there was a large decrease in the number of vessels under the British flag (chiefly due to the withdrawal of some river steamers) there is an increase in British tonnage of 58,441 tons.

	1900.		1901.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British ...	7,511	9,155,198	6,715	9,213,639	—	58,441	796	—
Foreign ...	3,429	4,866,969	4,092	5,345,502	663	478,533	—	—
Junks in foreign trade.	35,425	3,224,856	35,394	3,266,168	—	41,312	31	—
Total ...	46,365	17,247,023	46,201	17,825,309	663	578,286	827	—

The above table does not include junks in local trade, the business of which shows an increase of more than 700,000 tons over that of the preceding year.

The problem of providing berthing accommodation in the harbour for the ever-increasing tonnage frequenting the Port is one that is getting more difficult each year, and though there may not be any very pressing necessity just at present, there can be no reasonable doubt that, with the constant advance in size, draught, and number, as well of ships of war as of the mercantile marine, and of foreign as well as British shipping, the water space will soon be found inadequate.

The following tables, as showing the relative importance of the shipping conducted under the various national flags, will be of interest:—

Nationality of Vessels.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
American	111	155,667	104	147,711
Austrian	53	128,483	51	122,632
Belgian	9	12,407	9	12,407
British	3,360	4,615,022	3,355	4,598,617
Chinese	138	18,932	140	19,113
Chinese junks	17,736	1,631,272	17,658	1,634,896
Corean	1	796	1	796
Danish	12	25,903	12	25,903
Dutch	29	40,872	29	40,872
French	328	243,588	328	238,427
German	844	1,242,642	843	1,239,967
Italian	13	18,782	14	19,502
Japanese	336	692,981	333	688,140
Norwegian... ..	79	78,004	75	73,821
Portuguese	83	10,456	83	10,456
Russian	4	8,797	4	8,797
Siamese	—	—	2	407
Spanish	1	784	1	784
Swedish	7	6,923	7	6,923
No flag	1	80	7	2,747
Steam launches trading to ports outside the colony.	1,542	82,564	1,542	82,564
Total	24,687	9,014,955	23,056	8,892,918

(B.) INDUSTRIES.

During the year 1901 most of our local industries, which are chiefly carried on upon joint stock principles, were well employed throughout the year, with satisfactory results.

Cotton spinning by the local company was hampered by the plague. The results to original shareholders were not good, owing to the initial cost of the mill being higher than originally estimated. However, the capital was written down largely, and

fresh capital brought in, with the effect that the present condition of the company is very satisfactory, and the future outlook promising. Improved dwellings for their operatives are shortly to be erected, and the system of piece work has been successfully introduced.

The sugar industry has been hampered by the large importations of Continental bounty-fed sugar into Japan and other markets which used to draw their supplies from here.

The shipping industry during 1901 was prosperous throughout the year.

Over-speculation in shares both here and in Shanghai has in many cases adversely affected the value of shares in several of the local undertakings, but I think that this is merely a temporary condition and that things will come to their normal level before long.

If the heavy fall in silver becomes permanent, it must eventually stimulate local productions in many directions, particularly in the repairing and docking of ships, as this work can be excellently done by Chinese under European supervision.

The local dock company is a large and well equipped institution, and the docking facilities of the Colony will, in the course of the next few years, be largely augmented by the Admiralty dock and by considerable works of the same sort at present under construction by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire at Quarry Bay.

The Hong Kong Dock Company are at present building a large river steamer for the Canton route, and if the result is satisfactory a considerable development in ship-building may show itself, especially if silver remains low.

The labour question—the crux of the industrial problem here—gives serious food for thought, and it is to be hoped that the extension of the boundaries of the Colony may make it possible to provide cheaper and healthier house accommodation for the labouring classes, so that the two chief elements of industrial prosperity—cheap labour and cheap money—may be successfully united.

At present, high rents and some unseen influence—probably Chinese guilds—militate against full advantage being taken of the abundant supply of labour in the adjoining provinces.

(C.) FISHERIES.

There are no fisheries of importance. The local demand for salt and fresh fish is met by fleets of fishing junks and a large number of net stations, and the fish that are required for salting are dried and salted on the beach. There is a very large local demand for fish from the Canton River, which are brought down alive in tanks in the daily passenger steamers.

(D.) FORESTRY, BOTANICAL SCIENCE, AND AGRICULTURE.

The Forestry and Botanical Department is under the charge of a Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, aided by a large staff of gardeners and foresters. Perhaps the most important work carried on by this Department is the planting of trees. Camphors have been planted as an experiment in the New Territory, but it is feared that they cannot be grown there so as to give an adequate return on the capital invested. The experiment was not successful, but will be repeated. Rubbers were also tried, but the climate is not suitable to this Central American and Malayan tree and most of the plants died in the cold season.

Much interesting botanical work is yearly carried on in Hong Kong. Mr. Ford, the Superintendent, has shown that the total number of plants, exclusive of mosses, lichens, sea-weeds and fungi, indigenous to Hong Kong, is 1,397, probably more than are indigenous to the whole of the British Isles. Plants and seeds are regularly interchanged with other botanical institutions, and the number of plants which are successfully introduced into the Colony by this means is constantly increasing. It is hoped that before long an experimental economic garden will be established in the New Territory for the purpose of introducing and distributing amongst the natives new plants of economic value.

The hilly character of the Island and its comparative absence of fertilising soil has prevented agriculture from becoming an active source of industry in Hong Kong. The acreage of cultivated land in the Island is a little over 400 acres only. The old dependency of British Kowloon, which is chiefly composed of level ground, contains almost the same amount of cultivated land. This, however, tends to diminish as buildings extend. The only part of the Colony where agricultural industries can be expected to thrive is the New Territory, which, though intersected by extensive ranges of barren hills, contains valleys where rice and sugar and other crops are grown with success. The acreage of cultivated land in the New Territory (including the islands) is not far short of 100,000, but much of this contains exceedingly poor soil and consists of minute holdings belonging to the poorest class of peasants. The Government has taken steps to introduce some better qualities of sugar-cane into the New Territory. Some attempts have been made to grow the mulberry but without success.

(E.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The available amount of building land in Hong Kong, except in the New Territory, is so limited that it has for many years commanded a very high price, and land premia and Crown rents form a considerable portion of the Colonial Revenue. Land in

private hands has proved to be a most lucrative source of wealth to its owners, while at the same time its scarcity and high value have tended to raise house-rents to such an extent as to seriously embarrass large numbers of Chinese and European tenants. Very extensive reclamation works have been and are still being successfully carried out, and large areas of level building ground have thereby been created. It is hoped that before long a practical commencement will be made of a new reclamation which will extend from the naval dockyard in the centre of the town to Causeway Bay in the East.

The sales of Crown land in 1901 were, as has been already stated, much less than those in 1900.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-seven Ordinances were passed during 1901, of which fifteen were amendments of Ordinances already in force, and two were private Ordinances for the naturalisation of Chinese.

From the Imperial point of view perhaps one of the most important measures of the year was the first Ordinance, which raised the annual military contribution of the Colony from 17½ per cent. to 20 per cent. of the total gross revenue, exclusive of land sales and premia on leases or statutory land grants.

Ordinance 5 is perhaps the most important measure of the year. It is an Ordinance "to establish a Code of Procedure for the Regulation of the Process, Practice, and Mode of Pleading in the Civil Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the Colony." The Supreme Court was established by legislative enactment in 1845, and all its proceedings were regulated by the practice of the English Courts "unless and until otherwise ordered by rule of the said Court." Successive attempts at improving the Civil Procedure of the Court were made in 1855, 1856, 1858, 1860 and 1861, and led to the enactment of what is known as the Old Code of Civil Procedure, in 1873, which abolished the old distinction between common law and equity, and established a uniform procedure for the administration of both. Alterations were from time to time carried out during many subsequent years, and the new Code, which was drafted last year by Sir John Carrington, C.M.G., and enacted as Ordinance No. 5 of 1901, contains the final results, up to the present time, of all the changes and improvements which experience had found necessary.

Ordinance No. 13 of 1901—a Consolidating and Amending Public Health Ordinance—was an important measure which will probably, however, be partially superseded by new legislation during 1902.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system and methods of education in the Colony are fully described in the Report for 1899, since which time there have been few changes. The whole system of education is at present under consideration, and may shortly undergo considerable modifications as the outcome of the deliberations of a special committee appointed towards the close of the year. A description of any changes which may take place should find a place in the next Report.

The principal school in the Colony is Queen's College, an institution which forms a distinct Government Department. The total number of pupils on the roll (European, Chinese and other Asiatics) is nearly 1,500. The average annual expenses of each boy are less than \$18, and the total fees received by Government amount to over \$28,000. There is a large staff of English and Chinese masters, who provide the pupils with an education which not only enables many of them to compete successfully in the Oxford local examinations but also fits them for important posts as interpreters and clerks in the Government service and in mercantile houses.

There is a growing feeling amongst both British and Chinese residents that the system of educating European and native children side by side in the same schools is not without its serious drawbacks. The subject has been fully dealt with in a Petition forwarded to you in September last, and the outcome will probably be the establishment of one or more good schools for European boys and girls and similar schools for the children of the better-class Chinese.

V.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on Public Works during the year was \$687,325.70.

The principal work initiated was a greatly enlarged scheme for the construction of water-works to supply the Kowloon Peninsula with water by gravitation, the estimated cost of the work being \$835,000. The reservoir to be constructed is situated in the New Territory, in connection with the development of which several works were in progress, principal among them being the road to Taipo, 16 miles in length.

Work was begun on an additional reservoir at Tytam for increasing the supply of water to the City of Victoria.

A number of buildings were in progress, including the new Law Courts, Harbour Office, Western Market, and Governor's Peak Residence.

A large Reclamation Scheme in front of the eastern section of the city, estimated to cost \$5,000,000, was under consideration, and arrangements for the construction of an electric tramway, 9 miles in length, were nearly brought to a conclusion.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.)—HOSPITALS.

Government hospitals consist of the Civil Hospital, to which is attached an isolated Lying-in Hospital, Kennedy Town Infectious Diseases Hospital, and the hospital hulk "*Hygeia*."

The Civil Hospital contains 124 beds in 18 wards; the Lying-in Hospital 6 beds for Europeans and 4 for Asiatics; and Kennedy Town Hospital 78 beds. In 1901, 267 cases were treated at Kennedy Town, of which 204 were cases of plague, 42 of small-pox, and 15 of cholera.

Two thousand nine hundred and forty-eight (2,948) in-patients and 12,663 out-patients were treated at the Government Civil Hospital in 1901, showing a slight decrease in the figures for 1900. Malarial fever alone was responsible for over 800 admissions.

The Tung Wa Hospital, supported by voluntary subscriptions among the Chinese and only to a small extent endowed by the Government, takes the place of a Poor House and Hospital for the Chinese sick and destitute. Chinese as well as European methods of treatment are employed in accordance with the wishes expressed by the patients or those who are responsible for them.

(B.) ASYLUM.

The Lunatic Asylum is under the direction of the Principal Civil Medical Officer. European and Chinese patients are separated, the European portion of the Asylum containing 8 beds in 8 separate wards, and the Chinese portion containing 16 beds. Ninety patients of all races were treated during 1901, and there were 7 deaths.

(C.) THE CHINESE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.

This institution was founded in 1887, largely through the efforts of Dr. Patrick Manson, Dr. Cantlie and others, for the purpose of teaching surgery, medicine and midwifery to Chinese. The government of the college is vested in the Court, of which the rector of the college, who has always been a Government official, is president. 57 students had been enrolled up to 1901,

and of these 12 have become qualified licentiates, who have obtained various posts under Government and elsewhere. The institution is of great value in spreading a knowledge of Western medical science amongst the Chinese.

(D.) PO LEUNG KUK.

This is a Society, under the supervision of Government, for the protection of women and children. It has done much good work in connection with the suppression of brothel slavery, which was in Hong Kong, and still is in China, one of the gravest social evils. If the Registrar-General, who acts as president of the Society, has reason to believe that a girl is being sold into a life of prostitution against her will, or if she is, in his opinion, of too tender an age to judge for herself as to her mode of life, she is sent into the Po Leung Kuk, where she is fed, lodged, and, unless she has relatives who will receive her, appropriately educated until she has an opportunity of making a respectable marriage or of earning an honest livelihood by her own exertions. The institution is managed by a number of Chinese gentlemen who are annually elected as a Managing Committee.

The number of women and children admitted into the Home during the year was 389, being 52 more than in 1900. 187 were restored direct to parents or relatives or were sent to some benevolent society in China, 3 were adopted, 5 placed at school, and 50 were married.

(E.) REFORMATORY.

The Belilios Reformatory, presented to the Colony by Mr. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., has not been occupied. It has been proposed to make use of the building, with the donor's consent, by turning it into a school. The matter is at present under consideration.

(F.) SAVINGS BANK.

There is no Post Office Savings Bank in Hong Kong. A branch of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation takes the place of such an institution in this Colony.

(G.) POLICE.

The total strength of the Police Force, which stood at 630 in 1898, 827 in 1899, and 929 in 1900, now stands at 920, including 145 Europeans, 366 Indians and 409 Chinese. The gradual diminution in armed robberies and lawlessness in the New Territory made it possible to withdraw a number of men from that part of the Colony during the year to strengthen the force in the city of Victoria and Kowloon. The executive staff now consists of a Captain Superintendent, a Deputy Superintendent, and two Assistant Superintendents. The conduct of all the contingents is reported to have been satisfactory.

Since the middle of the year the Chinese provincial authorities have maintained a force of soldiery along the northern boundary of the New Territory, who have co-operated with our Police in preventing the incursion of armed robbers into the Colony.

(H.) PRISON.

The daily average of prisoners confined in Victoria Gaol was 499, as compared with 486 for the year 1900. There were 180 convicts in the gaol on the 31st December, 1901, against 141 on the same date in 1900, 96 in 1899, 55 in 1898. This shows an increase of 125 per cent. during the past three years. This large increase is synchronous with and largely attributable to the inclusion of the New Territory in the Colony.

The total profit of all industrial labour amounted to \$24,783 as compared with \$17,458 for the preceding year. All minor repairs to the gaol have been carried out by prison labour. A new wing was completed and occupied by long-sentence prisoners early in the year.

The question of extending the prison accommodation in the Colony has been for some time engaging the attention of the Government.

The Superintendent of the Gaol is also Captain Superintendent of Police, and is assisted by an Assistant Superintendent, a medical officer, chaplains, and European and Indian warders.

(I.) FIRE BRIGADE.

The Superintendent of Fire Brigade is also Captain Superintendent of Police and Superintendent of Victoria Gaol. The European members of the brigade, with the exception of the engineer, are also members of the Police Force voluntarily enlisted, and for their services in the brigade they receive a small addition to their pay. There are also a number of Chinese foremen and engine-drivers. The brigade possesses a powerful floating fire engine for use in the harbour, four land steam engines, and 29 despatch boxes. The five fire engines were all built by Messrs. Shand and Mason.

There were 58 fires and 84 incipient fires during the year, and the brigade turned out 57 times. The estimated damage caused by the fires was \$630,381 and by the incipient fires \$212. The only year in which greater damage was done by fire was 1898, when the total damage was \$829,814.

Towards the end of the year the work of extinguishing fires was rendered more arduous by the drought and the consequent want of water in the mains.

VII.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The number of convictions in the Superior Courts during the last four years are as follows:—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
1. For Offences against the Person ...	19	49	54	54
2. For Offence against Property ...	17	18	7	7
3. For other Offences... ..	3	10	12	21

The total of all cases reported to the Police was 9,172 as against 9,873 in 1900. This represents a decrease of 7·10 per cent. In offences which are classed under the term "serious" there was a decrease of 128 cases or 3·62 per cent.; in minor offences a decrease of 573 cases or 9·03 per cent. Three men were arrested and convicted for being members of an unlawful (the Triad) society. There was a notable decrease in piracies and armed robberies, partly no doubt owing to the efficacy of recent legislation on the subject.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The last Census was taken in January, 1901, when the population was found to be 283,975, exclusive of the Army and Navy. The numbers of those forces amounted to 7,640 and 5,597 respectively. In the middle of the year the population is estimated to have been as follows:—

Non-Chinese civil population	9,560
Chinese population	280,564
Army	5,462
Navy	5,074
	<hr/>
	300,660

The New Territory was not included in the recent Census, but a fairly accurate enumeration of its population was made. It numbers about 100,000, which brings the total population of the Colony up to rather over 400,000.

It is significant that while the total increase in the population of the Colony during the five years between 1897 and 1901 was 35,095, the increase during the same period in the population of British Kowloon (which used to be a garden suburb of Victoria) was no less than 16,534, or nearly half the increase for the whole Colony.

There were 1,088 births during the year, and of that number 848 were Chinese. This is equal to a general birth-rate of 3·6 per 1,000, as compared with 3·3 in 1900, 4·3 in 1899, and 4·7 in 1898. Owing, however, to the large number of Chinese infants who die unregistered, it is estimated that a more correct birth-rate for the past year would be 4·7 per 1,000.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

As compared with the 1,088 births mentioned above, there were 7,082 deaths in 1901. This gives a death-rate of 23·5 per 1,000, as compared with 23·9 in 1900, 23·8 in 1899, and an average of 22·5 per 1,000 during the past five years. The deaths included 1,562 from bubonic plague, which again visited the Colony and ran its usual course. Excluding the deaths from plague, the death-rate for 1901 would have been 19·03 per 1,000. Among the non-Chinese the deaths numbered 412, of which 302 were among the civil population, 96 among the Army, and 14 among the Navy. This is equal to a death-rate of 20·5 per 1,000. The British deaths among the non-Chinese numbered 116; the rest were chiefly Indians, Malays and Portuguese.

One thousand six hundred and fifty-one (1,651) cases of plague were reported during the year, of which all but 89 were fatal. The disease showed an increased tendency to attack Europeans. The chief causes of death among the non-Chinese resident civil community were plague, phthisis, malaria and pneumonia. There were more cases of small-pox than usual, and some cholera cases were imported.

It is hoped that when the much-needed improvement in the sanitary condition of the city is effected, there will be a large decrease not only in the deaths resulting from bubonic plague but also in those from phthisis and other chest diseases, which are more or less directly attributable to overcrowded and insanitary dwellings.

It is to be regretted that the experiment of once more sending troops to reside in the building which was originally destined to be a military sanitarium has not proved successful, and the hopes expressed in the Report on the Blue Book for last year have not been realised. After a brief period of freedom from malaria, the troops stationed there began to be attacked in considerable numbers and had to be wholly withdrawn from the building, which now stands empty.

The treatment with larvicides of the breeding places of the anopheles mosquito is being actively continued.

(C.) SANITATION.

In spite of the efforts of the Government, the Sanitary Board and the Legislature during the past few years, the sanitary state of the Colony still leaves much to be desired. The city of Victoria retains its unenvied pre-eminence in the matter of surface crowding, and in spite of the enforcement of the provisions of the Insanitary Properties Ordinance of 1899, the condition of the vast majority of the Chinese dwelling houses is far from meeting the requirements of modern sanitary science. As there seemed to be no prospect of amelioration without the adoption of more radical measures than had hitherto been attempted, and as the community showed by a petition which they addressed to you in the course of the year that they were prepared to face the heavy expenditure which stronger measures would certainly involve, Sir Henry Blake asked you to send out an expert to enquire into the sanitary state of the Colony and report upon the steps which in his opinion should be taken to remedy existing defects. In October, 1901, you informed Sir Henry Blake that you had selected Mr. Osbert Chadwick, C.M.G., a sanitary expert of wide experience and no stranger to Hong Kong, for this special work. About the same time you informed him that you had selected Professor Simpson, M.D., to pay a simultaneous visit to the Colony with a view to a thorough enquiry being made into the origin of bubonic plague, and the best means of providing against its annual re-appearance. A notice of the work done by these gentlemen, who had not yet arrived in the Colony at the end of 1901 will, it is hoped, appear in next year's Report. A certain result of their visit must be the introduction of legislative measures to consolidate and amend the present Health and Building Ordinances.

(D.) CLIMATE.

The average monthly temperature throughout the year was 72.1° F. as compared with 71.6° F. during 1900; the maximum monthly temperature was attained in July, when it reached 82.2° F., and the minimum monthly temperature was recorded in the month of February, being 54.8° F.

The highest recorded temperature during the year was 92.7° F. on August 3rd, and the lowest was 38.4° F. on February 4th.

The total rainfall for the year was 55.78 inches, as compared with 73.73 inches in 1900 and an average of 77.2 inches during the past ten years. The wettest month was May, with 14.10 inches, while there were also 14 inches of rain in the month of August; the driest month was January, with only 0.685 inch. The greatest amount of rain which fell on any one day was 4.23 inches on April 7th, while no rain fell on 213 days of the year; the relative humidity of the atmosphere throughout the

year was 75 per cent. as compared with 77 per cent. in the previous year. The average daily amount of sunshine throughout the year was 5.5 hours, and on 35 days only was no sunshine recorded.

It may be mentioned that the rainfall of 1901 was less than half the rainfall of the year 1891. Taitam Reservoir, the principal source of water supply, was not filled throughout the year, and only one rainfall during the last 20 years (that of 1895) was lower than that of the year under review.

IX.—POSTAL SERVICE.

The cessation of the Boxer troubles in the North of China gave an impetus to trade, which was faithfully reflected in the steady increase in postal business.

The monthly sales of stamps showed an increase of \$21,765, as compared with 1900, and for the first time since the adoption of the penny postage the revenue exceeded the highest revenue from the same source in former days. The returns from the Branch Post Offices at Shanghai and in China also show gratifying results.

The Revenue of the Department from all sources in 1901 was \$355,912, and the Expenditure \$273,685. The nett balance to the Hong Kong Post Office on the year's transactions amounted to \$82,227.

X.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) REGULAR FORCES.

The following return shows the number and nature of the forces employed in the Colony during 1901 :—

CORPS.	EUROPEAN.			INDIAN.		CHINESE.		TOTALS.
	Officers.	Warrant Officers.	N.C.O.'s and Men.	Officers.	Warrant Officers.	N.C.O.'s and Men.	N.C.O.'s and Men.	
General Staff	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Garrison Staff	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Royal Garrison Artillery	21	2	578	—	—	—	—	601
Hong Kong-Singapore Battalion, R.A.	12	—	9	—	—	437	—	466
Royal Engineers	13	4	221	—	—	—	—	238
Chinese S. M. M. Co., R.E.	—	—	—	—	—	—	65	65
Second Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers	27	2	1,012	—	—	—	—	1,041
Army Service Corps	2	—	6	—	—	—	—	8
Royal Army Medical Corps	9	1	46	—	—	—	—	56
A.O.D. and Corps	7	—	52	—	—	—	—	59
A.P.D. and Corps	3	1	6	—	—	—	—	10
Ind. Sub-Med. Department	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	3
Educational Department	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hong Kong Regiment	13	—	—	—	—	898	—	928
22nd Bombay Infantry	13	—	—	—	—	678	—	703
3rd Madras Light Infantry	10	—	—	—	—	652	—	678
5th Infantry Hyderabad Contingent... ..	13	—	—	—	—	671	—	699
Totals	150	13	1,930	68	—	3,338	65	5,564

(B.) COLONIAL CONTRIBUTION.

The Colony contributed \$801,275 (being the statutory contribution of 20 per cent. of revenue) towards the cost of the maintenance of the regular forces in the Colony and barrack services.

(C.) VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The total establishment of the Corps is 351 of all ranks. The strength in 1901 was:—staff, 7; one field battery (80) of six 2·5 inch R.M.L. mountain guns; three machine gun companies (157) of four ·303 inch Maxim machine guns each; an infantry company (53); an engineer company (25); and a band (19).

The ·45 inch Maxim machine guns have been converted into guns of ·303 inch calibre.

The expenditure on the Volunteers, which is entirely borne by the Colony, was \$26,772·60.

I have, &c.,

W. J. GASCOIGNE,

Major-General,

Officer Administering the Government.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 351.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1900-1901.

(For Report for 1899-1900, *see* No. 317.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
March, 1902.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
327	Bahamas... ..	1900
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia	"
333	Seychelles	"
334	Falkland Islands	"
335	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
336	British New Guinea	1899-1900
337	Leeward Islands	1900
338	Trinidad and Tobago	"
339	British Honduras	"
340	Hong Kong	"
341	Ceylon	"
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900-1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900-1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
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MISCELLANEOUS.

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1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies... ..	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 351

JAMAICA
1900-1901

J A M A I C A .

(For Report for 1899-1900, see No. 317.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,

Jamaica,

31st December, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1900-1901.

2. I regret that shortness of staff and pressure of important current work in the Colonial Secretary's office have unavoidably delayed the completion of this report.

I have, &c.,

AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,

Governor.

**JAMAICA,
1900-1901.** **REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY
OF JAMAICA FOR THE YEAR 1900-1901.**

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- (B.) Mines, Manufactures and Fisheries.
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- (B.) Public Health, general state of.
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IX. MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

- (A.) Regular Forces.
- (B.) Militia.
- (C.) Constabulary or Semi-official Colonial Force.

X. GENERAL REMARKS.

I. FINANCE.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

At the beginning of the financial year on the 1st April, 1900, the deficit on the General Revenue Account of the Colony stood at £123,027.

The year's revenue amounted to £760,387 and the expenditure to £763,662, showing a deficit on the year's transactions of £3,275, and increasing the standing deficit to £126,302 on the 31st March, 1901.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue for the two years :—

Heads of Revenue.	1900-1901.		1899-1900.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Customs	337,416	11 4½	353,765	1 3	—	—	16,348	9 10
Port, Harbour and Light House Dues ...	5,046	15 3½	4,906	19 11	—	—	139	15 4½
License, Excise and Internal Revenue ...	136,710	7 0	153,935	7 3½	—	—	16,215	0 3½
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements and Irrigation Receipts.	60,067	17 4½	55,313	2 7½	4,754	14 9	—	—
Post Office and Telegraphs	26,616	12 7½	26,444	12 11½	171	19 8½	—	—
Railway Receipts, seven and a half months ...	71,153	7 2	—	—	71,153	7 2	—	—
Railway Balances taken over	48,701	3 0	—	—	48,701	3 0	—	—
Railway Stores	15,097	15 0	—	—	15,097	15 0	—	—
Rents	2,297	15 9	2,518	7 4	—	—	220	11 7
Interest	17,745	1 1	19,858	11 5	—	—	2,373	10 4
Miscellaneous Receipts	8,328	0 9½	5,987	1 10½	2,346	18 11½	—	—
Quit Rents, transferred from Parochial Road Reserve Fund.	9,128	13 4	—	—	9,128	13 4	—	—
Total, exclusive of Land Sales ...	738,039	19 10	622,719	4 7½	115,320	14 2½	—	—

Land Sales	1 515 9 0	2,011 10 0½	—	496 1 0½
Total Local Revenue	739,555 8 10	624,730 14 8	114,824 14 2	—
Imperial Grant in aid of Agriculture	200 0 0	—	200 0 0	—
Total Revenue	739,555 13 10	624,730 14 8	115,024 14 2	—
Net Increase	—	—	115,024 14 2	—
Imperial Loan in aid of Deficit, General Revenue Account.	20,000 0 0	—	20,000 0 0	—
Imperial Loan in aid of expenses of conversion of Railway Debt.	631 10 0	—	631 10 0	—
Total for General Revenue Account...	760,386 18 10	625,131 14 8	135,955 4 2	—

Revenue.

The most conspicuous feature in the Revenue returns is the failure of the yield of taxation. Customs Duties yielded £16,348 9s. 11d less than in the previous year and £22,583 8s. 8d. less than the estimate. Port Harbour and Light House Dues £139 15s. 4d. more than in 1899-1900, but £823 4s. 8d. less than the estimate.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

License, Excise, and General Internal Revenue £17,215 0s. 3½d. less than in the previous year, and £19,914 less than estimate.

Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, &c., £2,486 2s. 7½d. less than estimate, although £4,754 14s. 9d. more than received in the previous year, partly owing to increase of duties.

Thus, under these four heads, which include practically all the Tax Revenue, there was received altogether £28,669 less than in the year 1899-1900 and £45,807 9s. less than the estimate for 1900-1901.

The railway became the property of the Government on the 16th August, 1900. The estimate of receipts for 12 months, on the assumption that it would be handed over before the year began, had been £125,000. The proportion of this amount for seven and a half months would be £78,125; but the receipts brought to account within the period amounted to only £71,153 7s. 2d., a shortage of £6,971 12s. 10d. The Cash balances taken over with the railway from the Colonial Bank and the Trustees of the First Mortgage Bondholders amounted to £48,701 3s., instead of £55,000 as had been anticipated. The difference of £6,298 17s. was largely due to special expenditure by the railway company for the repair of storm damages in the first half of the year 1900 in excess of receipts. On the other hand stores to the value of £15,097 15s. were also taken over of which no estimate had been made.

£20,000 was brought to the credit of General Revenue Account by an instalment of the loan of £150,000 authorised by the Imperial Government to cover outstanding deficit previously accrued.

A further sum of £631 10s was brought to credit of General Revenue Account, being part of the Imperial Loan of £88,000 for the payment of interest due on the First Mortgage Bonds of the Jamaica Railway, in excess of the amount required for this purpose. This surplus was transferred in aid of the expenses of redeeming the First Mortgage Bonds and issuing three and a half per cent. Inscribed Stock in exchange, towards which £9,128 13s. 4d. was also appropriated by transfer from surplus of Quit Rents standing to credit of the Parochial Road Reserve Fund.

Excluding the three items last mentioned as not being actual revenue receipts of the year, the revenue amounted to £730,627, against an estimate of £765,886, a shortage of £35,259, and excluding, for parity of comparison, the other railway receipts, the revenue for 1900-1901 amounted to £595,675, or £29,457 less than the foregoing year's corresponding revenue of £625,132.

General Expenditure.

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1900-1901.	Expenditure, 1899-1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charges of Debt:—Interest	139,165 6 3	91,384 8 10	47,780 17 5	—
Interest—Arrears for Railway 3½ per cent Inscribed Stock.	48,706 0 0	—	48,706 0 0	—
Management	132 1 10	132 3 3	—	0 1 5
Management.—Expenses of issue of Railway Inscribed Stock.	9,760 3 4	—	9,760 3 4	—
Sinking Funds	23,369 19 2	20,175 13 4	3,194 5 10	—
Redemption of Debt	190 0 0	—	190 0 0	—
Pensions... ..	24,351 15 0½	23,932 5 5	419 9 7½	—
Governor and Staff	6,584 0 7½	5,874 4 8	709 15 11½	—
Privy Council	103 8 6	179 5 7	—	75 17 1
Legislative Council	1,257 9 7½	1,146 1 7	111 8 0½	—
Colonial Secretariat	5,181 19 10	4,463 9 6	718 10 4	—
Public Works Department	12,751 4 9	13,397 15 10	—	646 11 1
Lands Department	2,401 5 11½	1,916 8 2½	484 17 9	—

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JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

General Expenditure—cont.

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1900-1901.	Expenditure, 1899-1900.	Increase	Decrease
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Railway Expenditure (7½ months)	48,923 9 11	1,557 6 9½	47,366 3 1½	—
Railway Debts paid by order of the Court ...	2,364 18 0	—	2,364 18 0	—
Railway Extension Track	14 16 8	—	14 16 8	—
Audit Department	4,461 9 6	4,114 14 11	346 14 7	—
Treasury	4,604 9 11½	4,315 4 8½	289 5 2½	—
Government Savings Bank	3,227 3 8½	3,149 5 2	77 18 1½	—
Clerks Parochial Boards	946 17 6	— 900 0 0	46 17 6	—
Immigration Department	880 1 4	1,231 6 0½	—	351 4 8½
Stamp Department	864 6 9½	1,143 1 7	—	278 14 9½
Excise Internal Revenue and Customs... ..	41,223 18 8½	38,548 18 10½	2,674 19 9½	—
Postal Service	28,653 16 3½	28,818 9 5½	—	164 13 2
Telegraph Department	7,514 10 2	7,396 15 1½	117 15 0½	—
Judicial	40,308 16 10	40,047 12 0½	261 4 9½	—

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Ecclesiastical	2,090 0 2	2,235 0 11	—	145 0 9
Medical	49,512 9 5½	47,589 5 8	1,923 3 9½	—
Government Laboratory ...	721 11 8	495 19 8	225 12 0	—
Constabulary and Prisons ...	74,846 12 9	73,766 1 2	1,080 11 7	—
Reformatories	3,029 6 5	3,235 19 0	—	206 12 7
Industrial Schools	1,332 8 6½	1,329 1 3½	3 7 3½	—
Education	56,070 19 0½	59,981 10 9½	—	3,910 11 9
Harbours and Pilotage ...	2,187 12 7½	2,263 3 9	—	75 11 1½
Military	12,212 3 5	13,353 0 9	—	1,140 17 4
Cable Subsidy	2,500 0 0	1,500 0 0	1,000 0 0	—
Direct Steamship Subsidy ...	4 7 6	—	4 7 6	—
Registrar-General's Department and Island Record Office.	4,835 8 4½	4,947 7 10½	—	111 19 5½
Registration of Titles Department... ..	942 19 9	998 10 9	—	55 11 0
Registration written back to Deposit ...	620 7 0	—	620 7 0	—
Government Printing Office	7,452 0 1	7,375 8 3	76 11 10	—
Institute of Jamaica	1,776 4 10	1,749 12 4	26 12 1½	—

General Expenditure—cont.

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1900-1901.	Expenditure, 1899-1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Board of Supervision	484 5 7	436 2 10	48 2 9	—
Public Gardens and Plantations	5,232 17 6	5,059 16 10	173 0 8	—
Agricultural Lecturer	464 18 7	—	464 18 7	—
Miscellaneous	8,904 11 8½	10,032 7 0½	—	1,127 15 4
Public Works and Buildings	54,395 0 11	57,366 9 5	—	2,971 8 6
Public Credits written off from Sundry Loan and Advance Accounts.	9,444 1 8½	—	9,444 1 8½	—
Lighthouses	1,542 13 8	1,262 0 6	280 13 2	—
Lighthouse Credits written off from Advance Account.	2,540 14 8½	—	2,540 14 8½	—
Taxes and Insurance	2,566 2 0½	3,141 5 10	—	575 3 9½
Total Expenditure	763,662 7 10½	593,927 3 8½	—	—
Nett increase	—	—	169,735 4 2½	—

The great addition to Debt Charges is noticeable, the total for the year being £221,323 10s. 7d., against £111,692 5s. 5d. in the previous year, besides which £87,368 10s. was paid to First Mortgage Bondholders of the railway out of borrowed moneys for arrears of interest due on their 4% Bonds. The same Bondholders received £48,706 for arrears of interest on the three and a half per cent. Inscribed Stock issued to them, a sum which was balanced with curious exactitude by the £48,701 taken over as railway balances, and which is included in the Debt Charges paid out of General Revenue this year, as well as £9,760 3s. 4d. paid for expenses for conversion of Railway Debt. Excluding these last two items, the Debt Charges belonging to the year amounted to £162,857 7s. 3d., showing an increase in normal Debt Charges of about £51,165, which is due to the three and a half per cent. Railway Inscribed Stock, and to which a further charge of nearly £15,000 for Sinking Fund on that Debt will be added in the financial year 1901-1902.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901

A saving of £8,578 7s. 3d. was effected on the estimate of Debt Charges by postponing the raising of loans authorised for Railway Equipment and in aid of deficit.

Most of the Departmental accounts show excesses of expenditure over estimate and over their totals of the preceding year. This is owing in almost every case to the payment of thirteen months' salaries within the year, the March salaries having been previously paid and brought to account in April.

The excess over the estimate for the Registration of Titles was due to the writing back to the credit of the "Assurance Fund" of £620 7s. erroneously charged against the funds for plans and diagrams since the year 1891.

The estimate of the expenditure of the railway for the whole twelve months was £90,000, besides £2,364 18s. falling due to be paid for certain debts under the order of the Supreme Court on its transfer to the Government. The proportional estimate for the period of seven and a half months, during which it was in the hands of the Government, is £56,250; but the actual expenditure for that period was kept down to £47,366 3s. 1½d., saving £8,883 16s. 10½d.

The original railway estimates for the twelve months had anticipated an excess of £35,000 in receipts over expenditure. The actual excess of general receipts over expenditure brought to account in the seven and a half months appears as £23,787 4s., which is at the rate of more than £35,000 a year.

As stated above, the Government also paid altogether £145,834 13s. 4d. for charges and interest due on the transfer of the railway, and it has incurred permanent charges of £66,400 a year for interest and Sinking Fund of new debt in addition to those of the pre-existing Railway Debt.

There was a saving of £1,093 6s. 11d. on the estimate, and of £646 11s. 1d. on the previous year's expenditure for the staff of

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

the Public Works Department, due to rigidly parsimonious administration and the vacation of several offices.

On the estimates for Public Works and Buildings for the year there was a saving of £10,611 19s. 1d., and on the expenditure of the previous year of £4,688 17s. 8d., representing the severe retrenchment rendered necessary by the failure of the Revenue.

On the other hand there were written off against the accounts for Public Works and Buildings the following amounts not expended in the year but standing hitherto to the debit of certain loan or advance accounts.

(1.) Depreciation of stores and expenses of working of P.W. Store Department, £1,726 0s. 9d.

(2.) Spanish Town Waterworks.—Balance outstanding from loan from General Revenue Account £1,525 7s. 3d. (These Waterworks having become the property of the Government no purpose was served by keeping this account open.)

(3.) Preliminary expenses, plans, estimates and specifications for new public offices, hitherto standing debited against the account of a loan to be raised for the buildings, now postponed indefinitely, £5,366 18s. 8d.

(4.) Part cost of brick kiln at General Penitentiary, hitherto standing as an advance to the Kingston General Commissioners, total, £9,444 1s. 8½d., written off from credit balances.

A balance of £2,450 14s. 9d. on the Negril Point Light House Advance Account was similarly written off.

Excluding these amounts so written off, with the £620 7s. written back to the Land Titles Assurance Fund and the £9,760 3s. 4d. spent for Railway Conversion charges, the expenditure amounted to £741,297 1s. 1½d., against an estimate of £752,855 13s. 1d., showing a saving of £11,558 12s. on the estimate, or about £23,688 if allowance is made for the payment of thirteen months' salaries in the year.

Excluding from the revenue the £20,000 Imperial Loan, the excess of the expenditure over revenue was £23,275 9s. But, as has been explained, £12,605 4s. of the amount brought to account as expenditure was merely a writing off of imaginary credits in the ledger and not actual expenditure of the year, whilst about £12,130 may be accounted for by the bringing of the March salary payments to account within the year, at the close of which their amount would otherwise have been actually a liability of the Government. And, in fact, had not sound accountancy demanded these corrections, the actual revenue of the year would have appeared as exceeding the actual expenditure.

It follows that the financial position of the General Revenue Account has not really deteriorated during the year, but may be regarded as having improved by about £1,460, although the balance of liabilities as shown in the statement of Liabilities and Assets has increased by £3,275, and £20,000 has been borrowed in aid of deficit.

II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following table shows the values of imports and exports in the past five years, as assessed by the Customs Department:—

YEAR.	EXPORTS.				IMPORTS		
	Island Products and Mann- factures.	British and Foreign Products and Mann- factures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	For Home Con- sumption.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home, including Specie.
1896-97	£ 1,384,278	£ 16,411	£ 69,552	£ 1,470,241	£ 1,836,849	£ 27,763	£ 1,864,612
1897-98	1,377,826	20,246	50,371	1,448,443	1,658,632	15,749	1,674,381
1898-99	1,532,378	34,302	95,863	1,662,543	1,770,768	17,664	1,788,432
1899-1900	1,797,996	26,245	43,838	1,868,079	1,733,666	73,199	1,806,865
1900-1901	1,758,523	20,820	37,738	1,797,076	1,621,794	30,883	1,652,677
Total	7,831,001	118,024	297,357	8,246,382	8,621,709	165,258	8,786,967
Average	1,566,200	23,605	59,471	1,649,276	1,724,342	33,051	1,757,393

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The total value of exports in 1900-1901 was noticeably lower than in the preceding year but still higher than in any other year of the last five, while the imports were the lowest of the period.

The estimated value of products of the Island exported was less by £59,473 than in 1899-1900, and that of articles imported for home consumption was less by £111,872.

The year 1889-1900 was the first since 1886-1887 in which exports exceeded imports, and the proportion of the excess increased in 1900-1901.

The explanation of this course of trade is probably to be found in the fact that the investments of borrowed capital in railway extensions and other public works and private undertakings has come to an end, whilst increased debt charges on the borrowings, public and private, of recent years have now to be paid for by the excess of exports. Whilst the free expenditure of borrowed money was proceeding, the distribution of wages both stimulated the importations of foreign goods and withdrew industry from the production of exportable goods. Under this influence and that of concurrent low prices, sugar cultivation fell off and much of the established coffee cultivation was neglected. The taxation necessary to pay for increased debt charges has now consequently to be levied on partially diminished resources and the purchasing power of the community bears a less proportion to its exports than formerly. There are, however, as shown by the following return, some healthy and encouraging indications of a substantial increase both in quantity and price of exports.

TABLE EXHIBITING THE INCREASES OR DECREASES IN
QUANTITY, VALUE, AND PRICE OF THE TEN PRINCIPAL
EXPORTS.

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B

The following table exhibits the increases or decreases in

Article.	Quantity.		Value.		Increase or Decrease (as shown by + or —) on 1899-1900.	
	1899-1900.	1900-1901.	1899-1900.	1900-1901.	Quantity	Value
Cocoa	Cwt. 20,041	Cwt. 23,450	£ 60,123	£ 64,488	+ Cwt. 3,409	+ £ 4,365
Cocoanuts ...	Number. 18,011,568	Number. 13,555,778	54,035	41,345	— Number. 4,455,790	— 12,690
Coffee	Cwt. 83,606	Cwt. 85,907	142,130	157,485	+ Cwt. 2,301	+ 15,355
Fruit—Bananas	Bunches. 8,046,404	Bunches. 8,248,485	603,480	618,636	+ Bunches. 202,081	+ 15,156
„ Oranges	Number. 107,444,200	Number. 88,825,650	145,050	115,473	— Number. 18,618,550	— 29,577
Ginger	Cwt. 20,205	Cwt. 26,530	60,615	66,324	+ Cwt. 6,325	+ 5,709
Logwood ...	Tons. 28,871	Tons. 34,006	77,971	98,618	+ Tons. 5,135	+ 20,647
Pimento ...	Cwt. 123,973	Cwt. 100,547	173,562	110,602	— Cwt. 23,426	— 62,960
Rum	Gallons. 1,569,187	Gallons. 1,404,405	130,766	152,244	— Gallons. 164,782	+ 21,478
Sugar	Cwt. 390,215	Cwt. 295,007	195,107	165,941	— Cwt. 95,208	— 29,166
Value of 10 chief products exported.	—	—	1,642,839	1,591,156	—	— 51,683
Miscellaneous products.	—	—	155,157	147,367	—	— 7,790
Value of all pro- ducts exported	—	—	1,797,996	1,738,523	—	— 59,473

The Company has not made any use whatever of the lands acquired by it and is now in liquidation, the interests in this land being in dispute between several parties. It is much to be regretted that so large a portion of the best lands in the Island should thus remain useless and unprofitable, but the Government are helpless in the matter, being bound by the provisions of the railway contract and of the law.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The Vigas plantation, amounting to 240 acres, which had been leased by the Directors of the Milk River Bath, was conveyed to the directors in fee simple, for the nominal consideration of a payment of ten shillings, to be held in trust for the purposes of the Bath.

Sales and Leases.

Sixteen parcels of Crown land, all of small extent, were sold during the year, exclusive of sales to small settlers, on the instalment purchase system. 66 leases of land were effected at a total rental of £200 19s; 56 of these were of small lots in the neighbourhood of Kingston.

Sales under the Instalment Purchase System.

588 applications to purchase land under the system were received, and 442 lots aggregating 3,879½ acres were surveyed and assigned. Since the year 1896 the Government has been selling Crown land in holdings not exceeding 50 acres to purchasers who are permitted to pay for the land and the cost of surveying by instalments distributed over ten years. If within this period the purchaser brings one-fifth of his holding into bearing in permanent crops, one-fifth of the purchase money is remitted. In the year 1900-1901 the Surveyor General reported that he experienced increasing difficulties in collecting the instalments of purchase money. Payment is generally delayed till the point of forfeiture is reached; this remissness imposes much trouble and cost on the Department. The ability of the settlers to pay for these lands in the moderate instalments required is, however, evidenced by the fact that out of 1,177 lots sold during the period of over four years in which the scheme has been in operation only 16 have had to be actually taken back owing to lot holders failing to pay their instalments. The greater part of this area consisted of abandoned estates recovered to the Crown by forfeiture for non-payment of Quit Rents, and occupied by squatters who paid rent only when absolutely forced to do so, and whose cultivation had no permanent value.

Forfeitable and Forfeited Lands.

Notifications have been published during the year of 20,669½ acres liable to forfeiture for non-payment of quit rent and land tax, while 10,969 acres have been finally forfeited.

The forfeitures last year aggregated 3,908½ acres.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

(E.) SHIPPING.

There was a considerable and general decrease in the number and tonnage of vessels visiting the Island during the year. The number of vessels entered decreased by 150, and the tonnage by 25,055 tons. This decrease was principally in visits of small vessels; sailing vessels were 113 fewer and steamers 37 fewer. This falling off was chiefly due to the decrease in the trade which sprang up with Cuba during and after the war in that Island.

The Island is merely a port of call for most of the lines of steamers which visit it, and the shrinkage therefore is of less moment to trade than it might appear at first sight.

The following is a comparative summary of vessels and tonnage for the past five years:—

Year.	Reported.		Cleared.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
1896-97 	Sailing, 343	66,447	361	70,557
	Steam, 688	672,955	694	678,946
	1,031	739,402	1,055	749,503
1897-98 	Sailing, 348	70,238	346	71,388
	Steam, 712	710,623	709	708,695
	1,060	780,861	1,055	780,083
1898-99 	Sailing, 445	71,058	457	76,218
	Steam, 975	839,391	972	841,052
	1,420	910,449	1,429	917,270
1899-1900 	Sailing, 394	64,425	387	64,172
	Steam, 793	832,636	793	832,278
	1,187	897,061	1,182	896,450
1900-01 	Sailing, 281	49,076	276	48,448
	Steam, 756	822,930	754	821,770
	1,037	872,006	1,030	870,218

There was a notable decrease in the entries of British tonnage at the close of the year, two lines of steamers being transferred to foreign flags, involving so far as this Island is concerned a loss to British tonnage of 160,456 tons distributed between 104 vessels. On the other hand, the inauguration of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service in February, 1901, is calculated to add to our inward British tonnage a minimum average of 49,270 tons devoted entirely to the interests of the Island.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The loss to British tonnage and gain to foreign for steamers during the year was:—

—	1899-1900.		1900-1901.		Loss.	Gain.
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British steamers ...	1,427	570,317	315	452,613	117,704	—
Foreign steamers...	366	304,527	441	370,317	—	65,790

The average tonnage of British steam vessels considerably exceeded that of foreign, thus:—

—	1899-1900.	1900-1901.
	Tons.	Tons.
British steamers ...	1,236	1,437
Foreign steamers ...	832	839

The British sailing trade with Jamaica is mostly carried on by small inter-colonial vessels, many being from the Cayman Islands.

The greater number of foreign vessels trading with Jamaica are Norwegian and American. In 1900-1901 259 of the former entered, and 174 of the latter, against 221 and 150 respectively in 1899-1900.

III. LEGISLATION.

The following are the more important laws passed during the session of 1900 which were assented to during the year under review, viz.:—

Law 6 of 1900.—This law amends the Succession Duty Law 20 of 1898. It makes accrual by survivorship of joint property

JAMAICA, 1900-1901. a succession, provides for various cases of dispositions of property, &c.

Law 7 of 1900—The Criminal Law Appeal Law, 1900.—This law amends the law regulating appeals from the judgments of Resident Magistrates sitting in the Resident Magistrates' Court in criminal cases.

Law 8 of 1900—The Coast and Harbour Lights Law, 1900—vests lighthouses and harbour lights in the Colonial Secretary, and the care and management of lighthouses in the Director of Public Works, and of harbour lights in the Marine Board. It provides for the payment by ships (except ships of war) and by pleasure yachts of dues not exceeding 3*d.* per ton registered tonnage, the rate to be fixed in Privy Council and the proceeds to be carried to General Revenue.

Law 11 of 1900 consolidates the law relating to coroners.

Law 13 of 1900.—This law constitutes the town of Port Royal, and the strip of land called the Palisadoes on which it is situated at the entrance to Kingston harbour, a separate parish, except for elections to the Legislative Council. It also constitutes a Parochial Board of five members, viz., the senior naval officer at Port Royal, chairman, an Admiralty or navy officer, and an army officer, both nominated members; and two members, elected by the townfolk triennially. The War Department and Admiralty property are exempted from rates leviable by the Board in consideration of fixed annual contributions to the revenue of the parish.

Law 14 of 1900—The Town Police Law, 1900—enables the provisions of the Kingston Police Laws to be applied to such other towns not being in that parish as the Governor in Privy Council may think fit.

Law 16 of 1900 enables moneys received from Quit Rents, and standing to the credit of the Parochial Board Reserved Fund, to be applied to such purposes and in such amounts as may from time to time be authorised by resolution of the Legislative Council.

Law 17 of 1900—The Landlords' Bailiffs Law, 1900.—This law limits the privilege of appointment as landlords' bailiffs to such persons as may be recommended by two Justices of their parish, after certain enquiries by the chief police officer of the parish. The law also fixes a schedule of fees and enables rules to be made for regulating the bailiffs' duties.

Law 18 of 1900 provides for certain actions at law arising from contract or tort for amounts exceeding £15 or such other minimum amounts as the Governor in Privy Council may fix, which were formerly disposed of in the Resident Magistrates' Court for Kingston, being tried instead by a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, the object being to relieve the lower Court of such proportion of its civil work as would enable certain

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

No mines have been worked in Jamaica for many years past. Several copper mining enterprises were embarked on in former times, but the quantity of ore extracted has not repaid the cost of working. Small quantities of gold, silver, platinum, and other metals have occasionally been found.

The principal manufactories of the Island are the sugar works and the rum distilleries attached to them. The coffee and cocoa curing works may also be regarded as factories. The Blue Book Returns for the year enumerated 80 other minor manufactories, as against 83 in 1899-1900 and 76 in 1898-1899. These establishments are of small importance, mostly employing but two or three hands. The greatest number of persons are employed by the Kingston match factory and by a factory in Saint Ann's for extracting essential oil from limes.

Amongst establishments of this class there were:—

—	1899-1900.	1900-1901.
Tanneries	26	24
Cigar and cigarette factories	18	19
Breweries	11	9
Aerated water factories	7	7

Ice, soap, bricks, cornmeal, and rice, logwood extracts, cocoanut oil and cocoanut butter are also manufactured to a small extent in this Island.

Fishing is carried on by more or less primitive methods for Island consumption, to a considerable extent off the coasts and to a moderate extent in the rivers. The river fisheries are preserved by a close season and by provisions of law forbidding the use of explosives and of nets with too fine a mesh.

(C.) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC GARDENS AND PLANTATIONS.

From Hope Gardens, its head station and principal distributing centre, the Botanic Department sold in 1900-1901 75,037 plants and 578 cocoa pods (for seed), and gave away 7,521 plants. The total number of plants distributed was 76,847 economic and 5,711 ornamental plants; total, 82,558 plants. In the previous year 115,839 economic and 16,265 ornamental plants, total, 132,104, were distributed from Hope. In 1899-1900, 2,605 plants, nearly all economic, were distributed from Castleton; and in 1900-1901, 4,825.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

Budded citrus and pineapple plants and cocoa pods are occasionally obtained from planters for applicants, and it is now the general policy of the Department not to compete with private growers when they are able to supply demands for young plants. Sometimes applicants are referred direct to a private grower, in other cases, where the applicant lives a long way off from the grower, the Department obtains the plants or pods and packs and distributes them free of charge.

15,494 citrus plants were distributed during the year by the Department. Two or three years ago the demand was chiefly for citrus. The nursery work at Hope is regarded as the most important business of the Department, it being necessary to keep large numbers of plants in stock to meet possible demands. 90,000 plants are now available for distribution. Among economic plants, besides cocoa and citrus, rubber plants, nutmegs, coffee, kola, grape-vines, cane tops, timber trees, &c., were in demand in 1900-1901.

The gardens at Hope are made attractive to visitors by well-kept lawns and beds of ornamental plants. The new orchid house, erected during 1900-1901, is stocked mainly by interchanging Jamaica orchids with exotic species obtained from noted nurseries abroad. The Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies considers it to be the most beautiful collection in the West Indies. Whilst it has become necessary to keep down expenditure to the lowest figure consistent with efficiency, the Director points out that experts in the work undertaken by the Department are astonished at the results obtained with the amount available.

With a view to economy and to enable increased attention to be paid by the Department to the interests of agriculture, a rearrangement of the expenditure of the Department was effected this year on the recommendation of the Board of Agriculture. The grant for labour at Castleton Gardens was reduced by one-third, and the Superintendent of the Hill Gardens was transferred to Hope Gardens, and the former Superintendent of Hill Gardens, Mr. Cradwick, who has proved a very efficient agricultural instructor, has been enabled to devote his whole time to agricultural lectures and demonstrations throughout the Island. A larger appropriation was also thus made available for carrying on the agricultural experiment station at Hope Gardens, under the supervision of a committee subsidiary to the Board of Agriculture, with the Director of Public Gardens as Chairman. At this station elementary school teachers and training college students have received annual courses of instruction from Mr. Buttenshaw, the Imperial lecturer on agriculture, and Mr. T. J. Harris, of the Botanical Department.

1,784 copies of the Bulletin of this Department are distributed monthly, 1,244 of which are sent abroad, whilst other copies are sent to enquirers for information. In 1900 articles were published on agricultural principles, the chemical composition of

bananas and plantains, on fibres, fodder, medicinal, rubber and spice plants, diseases and insect pests of plants, manures, &c. Eleven works were obtained for the library.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The following are brief notes of the botanical work done with a view of providing the proper cultivation or treatment for exportation of the chief economic plants grown in the Colony.

Bananas.

A conference was held in December, 1900, and the discussion has resulted, the Director of Public Gardens considers, in some advance in knowledge and also in changes in methods of cultivation. Twenty-three varieties of banana are being experimentally cultivated at Hope Gardens. The planting of cocoa with bananas, to succeed them as a permanent crop, has been strongly advocated by the Board of Agriculture and by the officers of the Botanical Department, and the travelling agricultural instructor has induced many planters to adopt this cultivation.

Citrus Fruit.

The best stocks for budding for navel oranges are found to be the rough lemon and sour oranges, and for grape fruit the sour lemon. Navel oranges and grape fruit in Jamaica thrive well in hot dry plains, but require systematic irrigation.

Grapes.

Grapes were cultivated largely for many years at Hope, but, though the vines grow vigorously, it has been found impossible there to rely on weather both warm enough and sufficiently dry for them to ripen. A few plants are now cultivated to give instruction in pruning, thinning bunches, &c. But grapes thrive and ripen well and have proved a profitable crop in and about Kingston, near the sea. Apprentices trained at Hope are sent out at the proper season, on application, to prune vines.

The black "Barbarossa" is found in Jamaica to be the heaviest cropper with the handsomest appearance.

Coffee.

561 plants of the Liberian variety were distributed. All the varieties are thriving. The agricultural instructor makes a point of instructing small settlers how to secure good full berries, an important point as, with the low prices current consequent on the immense production in Brazil, only fine coffee is worth cultivating.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

Kola.

509 seedlings distributed. The Director of the Botanic Gardens, Cameroons, states that the variety of kola grown here (*Cola vera*) is the best edible variety, and the trees grown are much finer than any he has seen in West Africa.

Mangoes.

An experiment was made in shipping mangoes. They were picked when just full, handled very tenderly, packed about twelve together in small boxes with large holes for ventilation, and were successfully exported. Mango trees grow luxuriantly in Jamaica, and bear immense crops of this delicious fruit, which might, with care in shipping, be made an important article of export.

Nutmegs.

1,214 seedlings distributed. The important experiments in grafting with a view to the propagation of female trees were continued.

Pineapples.

The agricultural instructor advises that large tracts of land in Vere and St. Elizabeth appear to be suited for this fruit.

Rubber

2,704 plants were distributed; all the varieties are doing well.

Sugar cane.

Three and a quarter acres are planted out with 62 varieties from all parts of the world; 36 new varieties were obtained from Demerara and 8 from Barbados. 15,103 tops were distributed. There is a large demand now for new seedling canes.

Tobacco.

Four acres have been planted out for investigation into the proper methods of cultivation and curing, and the help of a Cuban tobacco planter secured for the latter.

(D.) LAND GRANTS, SALES, &C.

Grants.

Two patents of forfeited land, amounting together to 710 acres, were conveyed to the West India Improvement Company during the year under the provisions of the Railway Law 12 of 1889, making a total of 74,433 acres granted to this Company as part of the consideration for the extensions of the railway provided by them. Over 2,000 acres still remain to be granted.

quantity, value, and price of the 10 principal Exports, viz. —

Percentage Increase or Decrease on 1899-1900.		Price.	Remarks.
Quantity.	Value.		
+ 17	+ 7.3	1899-00: 60 0 ^{s.} ^{d.} per cwt. 1900-01: 55 0 " "	Value has increased fourfold in decade. Price rising generally. 1898-99 50s. 10d. per cwt.
— 24.7	— 23.5	1899-00: 57 3 " M. 1900-01: 61 0 " "	Value has about trebled in decade. Price declined, but rising again. 1898-99, 57s. 3d. per M.
+ 1.6	+ 8	1899-00: 34 0 " cwt. 1900-01: 36 8 " "	Value about half. Price little more than half that of 10 or 12 years ago; again rising. 1898-99, 29s. 5d. per cwt.
+ 2.5	+ 2.5	1899-00: 1 6 " bunch. 1900-01: 1 6 " "	Value more than doubled in decade. Price fairly steady. 1898-99, 1s. 3d. per bunch.
— 17.4	— 20	1899-00: 27 0 " M. 1900-01: 26 0 " "	Value more than doubled in decade. Prices lower in last two or three years. 1898-99, 24s. 11d. per M.
+ 31.3	+ 9.4	1899-00: 60 0 " cwt. 1900-01: 50 0 " "	Value 1900-01 nearly four times that of 10 to 12 years ago. Price lower that year, but rising generally. 1898-99, 57s. 10d. per cwt.
+ 17.7	+ 26.5	1899-00: 54 0 " ton. 1900-01: 58 0 " "	Value 1900-01 between a third and a quarter of 10 to 12 years ago. Price 100s. in 1893-94; declined, but seems to be brightening. 1898-99, 52s. 6d. per ton.
— 18.9	— 36.3	1899-00: 28 0 " cwt. 1900-01: 22 0 " "	Value 1899-00 exceptional, 1900-01 about double that of 10 to 12 years ago. Price 1900-01 about average formerly. 1898-99, 32s. 9d., abnormal.
— 10.5	+ 16.4	1899-00: 1 8 " gallon. 1900-01: 2 2 " "	Value 1900-01 about three-fifth that of 10 to 12 years ago. Price 1900-01 far beyond that of late years, and approximates that formerly obtained. 1898-99, 1s. 4d. per gallon.
— 24.4	— 15	1899-00: 10 0 " cwt. 1900-01: 11 0 " "	Value 1900-01 little more than half that of 10 to 12 years ago. Price which had declined greatly, appreciably improved. 1898-99, 8s. 4d. per cwt.
—	— 3.1	—	—
—	— 5.1	—	—
—	— 3.3	—	—

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The falling off in quantity of pimento, rum and sugar was due to short crops resulting from unfavourable seasons. The price of pimento, moreover, fell from 28s. to 22s. per cwt. Rum and sugar realised improved prices, that of rum resulting, notwithstanding the short output, in an increase of value by £21,478.

The general purchasing power of the labouring class, so far as it depends on these industries, is, however, far more affected by the bulk of the crop than by the price it ultimately fetches.

Logwood shows an increase in quantity, price, and total value, the last by £20,647. Logwood extract was valued at £31,599, in place of £15,881 in 1899-1900.

The exports of tobacco also showed a decided improvement, native-made cigars, cigarettes, and leaf-tobacco totalling—

	1900-1901.			1899-1900.			Increase.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cigarettes ...	1,957	19	0	311	12	0	1,646	7	0
Cigars ...	15,634	0	3	11,530	0	10	4,103	19	5
Leaf tobacco ...	5,067	10	0	1,404	10	0	3,663	0	0
Total ...	22,659	9	3	13,246	2	5	9,413	6	10

altogether £9,413 more than in 1899-1900.

Capital and skill appear to be now employed in the tobacco industry with improving results.

The bee-keeping industry, which is almost entirely in the hands of persons of limited means, shows remarkable improvement, honey having increased in value in five years from £1,891 to £10,739. This fact indicates the exercise of increased intelligence and industry.

The export of bananas suffered considerably from the effects of violent storms of rain and wind in the autumn of 1899, otherwise, no doubt, this staple would have shown a far greater increase. Great interest attached to the endeavour of Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. to establish a market for bananas in England. Their steamers receiving a subsidy of £40,000 a year (£20,000 from the Imperial Government and £20,000 from the Government of Jamaica) took their first two fortnightly cargoes at the close of the year under review. They are under contract to buy and ship not less than 20,000 bunches by each fortnightly steamer, but the venture can only be successful, or, indeed, of appreciable importance to this branch of the trade of the Island, if it is found possible to establish an export of much greater volume. This it is the hope and expectation of the contractors to be able to do.

The export of cattle, sheep, and fowls, and of yams and other ground provisions to Cuba, which developed during and after the late war in that Island, has now practically ceased with the establishment of good government and renewal of cultivation there. Thus, the value of exported cattle fell from £24,881 to £4,791, and that of yams from £3,220 to £1,201.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The exports of the last five years have been distributed as shown in the following table:—

Destination.	1893-97.	1897-98.	1898-99	1899-1900	1900-01.
United Kingdom	27·4	22·0	20·6	19·2	18·8
United States	56·6	62·3	59·1	63·6	63·8
Canada	1·2	1·4	1·4	1·6	1·8
Other countries	14·8	14·3	18·9	15·6	15·6

The decrease in exportations to the United Kingdom and the corresponding increase in those to the United States are attributable to the fact that about 45 per cent. of the exports now consists of fruit, a highly perishable article, much of which it has hitherto been impossible to ship to England.

The effect of the institution of the direct line of steamers in stimulating British trade with Jamaica will be anxiously watched.

The following table shows the relative proportion of the chief items of export in the last five years:—

—	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900	1900-01.
Sugar	10·1	8·3	9·8	10·8	9·5
Rum	8·4	6·3	6·1	7·2	8·8
Coffee	14·4	11·4	10·5	7·8	9·1
Dyewoods	11·6	8·9	8·8	4·8	6·2
Fruit	34·3	42·8	41·4	45·0	45·2
Pimento	5·2	3·6	8·3	9·7	6·4
Minor products	16·1	18·7	15·1	14·7	14·8

Sugar, fruit, and cocoanuts are shipped almost entirely to the United States; the proportion of the first staple which went to the United Kingdom in 1900-1901 was only about one-fourteenth. 38,880 bunches of bananas went by the new direct line to England. Rum still finds its principal market in the United Kingdom. In 1900-1901 three-fourths of the coffee

JAMAICA, 1900-1901: went to France and the United States, the remaining fourth almost entirely to the United Kingdom. The United States and Russia took most of the logwood; the United States and United Kingdom three-fourths of the pimento, and most of the ginger; France shares with both in cocoa as well as coffee; Germany in pimento.

Imports.

As already stated, these, excluding specie, decreased by £111,872. Decreases occurred under all heads of any importance. The principal decrease was in manufactured articles, on which alone it was £97,540, a shrinkage of nearly 10 per cent. on the previous year's figure. The shrinkage on raw materials was £7,820, or over 10 per cent., while that on live animals, food, &c., was only £6,514, or less than 1 per cent. The importation of live cattle diminished under the restrictions of the cattle quarantine laws and the continued effect of the heavy import duty. All kinds of alcoholic beverages, except whisky, show a falling off, as did bread, biscuit, butter and butter substitutes, corn, provisions, and flour. The decrease in the value of flour by £18,683 was, however, accompanied by an increase in quantity of 4,276 lbs. Salted beef, pork, and fish of all descriptions showed an increase in value by about £15,000, due generally to higher prices.

The imports of condensed milk and rice rose in value by £6,708 and £3,269 respectively. The steady increase for many years past in importations of condensed milk in a country so favourable for milch cattle is not a satisfactory sign. Importations of chemical and natural manures appreciably increased, the latter totalling £6,628.

Among the manufactured articles, the greatest decreases in textiles are on wearing apparel and slops £12,036, cotton piece goods £20,543, and woollen unmixed £13,990, the last being partially set off by mixed woollens £10,499. Boots and shoes show a decline of £10,168, and wooden building materials, both lumber and shingles, of £10,593. There has been a very noticeable curtailment in building operations in the Island within the last two or three years. The imports of agricultural machinery show a satisfactory increase of £21,318.

The following table shows the respective proportions in which imports were obtained from various countries in the past five years:—

Country.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900	1900-01.
United Kingdom	49·9	47·2	44·7	47·2	45·4
United States	39·4	43·0	45·1	43·0	43·0
Canada	8·2	7·1	7·1	7·1	8·4
Other countries	2·5	2·7	3·1	2·7	3·2

economies to be effected in the establishment of Resident Magistrates' Courts. JAMAICA, 1900-1901.

Law 19 of 1900 enables the Director of Public Works to relieve any Parochial Board at its request and with the approval of the Governor in Privy Council, for such period as may by circumstances be determined, of the care and management of any system of water supply.

Law 21 of 1900—The Tax Collection Law, 1900.—This law changes the date of commencement of the tax collecting year from the 1st August to the 1st April, being the date of the commencement of the official financial year of the Government. It also enables assessed taxes, exceeding in amount eight shillings per annum, to be paid in four equal quarterly instalments, provided payment be made in the first month of the quarter concerned.

Law 23 of 1900 enables the Governor in Privy Council to make bye-laws for the regulation of land used for an artillery or rifle range, a school of gunnery or like purpose.

Law 26 of 1900—The Soap Excise Duty Law, 1900.—This law imposes an excise duty of tenpence per box of soap weighing 56 lbs., or less or more duty proportionately to the contents, and license duty of £1 for each soap manufactory; it also provides for the giving of returns, inspection of factories, &c. The import duty of 3s. 1d. per box of soap of 56 lbs., equal to about 50 per cent. of the cost of imported soap, acted as a high protective duty in favour of local manufacturers of soap who paid only the usual *ad valorem* duty of 16½ per cent. on raw materials.

Law 27 of 1900 repeals former Marine Board Laws and consolidates and amends their provisions.

Law 28 of 1900—The Tobacco Duty Law, 1900.—This law repeals the Cigar and Cigarettes Duty Law, 1897, except as to rights, liabilities, &c., incurred thereunder.

The requirements of the former law were found onerous and difficult to enforce in many respects. The new law applies only to manufacturers, and requires any person making cigars, whether for sale or not, to take out a license of 5s. per 10,000 cigars, or fractional part; and any person making cigarettes and pipe tobacco (except "rope" tobacco) to take out one of 5s. It also imposes a duty of 1s. per 100 cigars, 1d. per 100 cigarettes, and 6d. per lb. tobacco. The keeping of stock books, Government inspection, &c., is further provided for.

Law 30 of 1900 amends the Spirit License Law of 1896 by allowing the sale of spirits on passenger coastal steamers, and also relaxes the provisions of the former law as to the process for renewing license, obtaining transfers where licensed, dimensions of premises, &c. It adds a penalty for a retailer failing to keep a stock book.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

Law 33 of 1900 repeals former provisions of law regarding arbitration, provides for reference to a single arbitrator unless otherwise specified, for appointment by two arbitrators of an umpire, &c.

Law 34 of 1900—The Parochial Finance Law, 1900.—This law simplifies the keeping of parochial accounts, consolidates the Poor, Sanitary and General Purposes Funds and Rates into one general fund and rate for each parish, and allows of separate local rates being levied for purposes benefitting a particular town or district of any parish.

Law 35 of 1900 enables Parochial Boards to appoint inspectors of food offered for sale, and makes better provision for preventing the sale of unwholesome food.

Law 36 of 1900 enables the Governor to borrow from the Imperial Treasury, to meet the deficit in the Colony's assets, a sum or sums not exceeding in all £150,000, in accordance with the provisions of the Colonial Loans Act, 1899.

Law 37 of 1900 provides for meeting from Jamaica funds one half of the subsidy payable by this Government to the contractors for the direct steamer service with the United Kingdom.

Laws passed during the Session of 1901, before the 31st March.

Law 1 of 1901—The Jamaica Railway Vesting Law, 1901.—The law confirms the First Mortgage Bondholders of the Jamaica railway in their position as holders of Inscribed Stock, and prescribes the steps to be taken for securing the payment of interest due to them. It formally vests the railway in the Government, which assumes liabilities of the railway company with those of the trustees of First Mortgage Bondholders and releases the trustees absolutely.

Law 2 of 1901 places constables on probation for three months after enlistment, so as to enable their services, when not likely to be useful, to be dispensed with, instead of only for misconduct or on a medical certificate as in the former law.

Law 4 of 1901 repeals the Patent Law so far as it makes forfeitable patent rights not brought into operation within two years.

Law 5 of 1901.—As calcium carbide was coming into use for lighting purposes, this law brings the substance, as a dangerous explosive, into a similar category to petroleum as to its storage and sale, requires licenses to be taken out, &c.

Law 6 of 1901 appropriates quit rents and produce protection duties to general revenue, except so far as proceeds of quit rents are required to pay moiety of the salaries of superintendents of Parochial Boards.

Law 7 of 1901 makes persons in possession of unoccupied houses in Kingston liable to a rate of 9½d. in the pound in 1900-1901, and in subsequent years to a rate not to exceed one-fourth of the general rate (*see* under Law 34 of 1900).

Law 9 of 1901—The Land Tax Law, 1901—provides additional revenue by imposing in place of those formerly leviable under various laws a new sliding scale of higher rates, generally based approximately on the different values estimated from the cultivation of different products, and ranging from one shilling per acre for banana, cane land, &c., to one halfpenny per acre on woodland and rainate. It also increases generally the taxes on holdings above five acres.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

Law 10 of 1901 consolidates former assessment laws applicable to Kingston and amends them by providing for the appointment of a committee consisting of three City Councillors appointed by the Mayor and three members of the Kingston General Commission, with an independent resident of Kingston appointed by the Governor. The committee's functions are to investigate into and supervise valuations made by assessors appointed by them.

Law 12 of 1901—The Match Excise Duty Law, 1901.—The high duty on imported matches had seriously affected imports of matches and receipts from Customs duty thereon to the profit of local manufacturers. To remedy this while allowing a fair profit to these manufacturers, Law 12 of 1901 imposes a duty of 3d. on every gross of boxes of matches manufactured in the Island containing 50 sticks or less, and the payment of a license duty of £1 in respect of each manufactory.

IV. EDUCATION.

(A.) ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Scholars in Average Attendance at Inspection.	Average Attendance from Monthly Returns.	Percentage on Average Attendance of Number on Books.	First Class Schools.	Second Class Schools.	Third Class Schools.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
1899-1900	746	776	98,598	61,219	51,470	62.08	187	357	219	£ 47,240
1900-1901	720	717	86,491	50,978	47,441	58.94	198	326	185	42,482

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JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The above table shows decreases under all heads except that of the first class schools, whose increase in number out of a considerably diminished number of schools shows the tendency of the economies which have been put into force during the period. The same tendency was shown in 1899-1900 as compared with 1898-1899; the percentage of first class schools continues to increase, and that of third class schools to diminish, through the closing or amalgamation of the superfluous or inefficient, whilst that of the second class remains stationary.

A new Code was brought into force during the year, but most of the examinations were held under the provisions of the former Code. The results of the new Code cannot begin to be tested generally till next year, but improvement is already apparent in the best schools, which have made determined efforts to meet the requirements of the new Code. The good increase in first class schools, which now exceed for the first time the lowest class, shows apparently that the many changes in their work introduced by the Code have not had even a temporarily disorganising effect.

The closing and amalgamation of inefficient schools, together with the restriction of the age limit and the adoption of a stricter method of keeping the attendance register, are stated as the causes of the decrease in the number of names in the books. It is satisfactory that the result of amalgamations has generally been decidedly increased efficiency.

The falling off in average attendance since October 1st, 1899, which began when the new age limit came into force, excluding children below six years of age (except in a few infant schools able to teach by Kindergarten methods), has been somewhat arrested this year, an improvement being especially observable during the last six months. Parents in districts where schools had been closed or amalgamated at first refused to send their children to a school a little further away than the one they had been accustomed to, but are now beginning to see the unwisdom of this refusal.

With a diminution in the number of schools and teachers, the amount of the grants-in-aid diminished considerably, but the increase in population and continued improvement in the quality of schools will naturally, unless further closings and amalgamations of schools are deemed necessary for financial reasons, lead to a gradual rise in the total amount of these grants. Expenditure in aid of voluntary training colleges was reduced from £3,470 in 1899-1900 to £2,660 in 1900-1901. The diminution in the grants to training colleges and to elementary schools resulted in a decreased expenditure under the head of Education from £60,000 in 1899-1900 to £55,236 in 1900-1901.

Training Colleges.

At the training college examinations held in December, 1900, 130 students and 24 teachers presented themselves. 111 of the

former passed, 29 with honours. Of the teachers 13 passed, none with honours. The percentage of students who passed was 85·4, as against 91·3 in 1899-1900. The Superintending Inspector of Schools explains that the proportion last year was an exceptionally high one. 65 per cent. of the teachers passed, a number much above the average. The number of teachers who present themselves for examination is rapidly increasing, *e.g.*, 9 in 1898-1899, 18 in 1899-1900, and 24 in 1900-1901.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

In August, 1900, a course of lectures on agriculture was given to teachers at the Jamaica High School, 30 of whom were boarded and lodged there for three weeks. These teachers had daily instruction and practice in elementary agricultural processes at Hope Gardens under the supervision of the officers of the Station, and theoretical instruction from the agricultural lecturer, whose services are paid for by the Imperial Government. Besides these lectures on agriculture in the morning by Mr. Buttenshaw, in the afternoon lectures on cognate subjects, such as the preparation of produce for the market, were given by gentlemen specially qualified to deal with them. Some results from these lectures are already showing themselves, as the examiner at the training college examinations held four months later noted that the papers on agriculture showed greatly increased intelligence and grasp of the subject. Papers on domestic economy also showed marked improvement. Manual training was taught at the Mico College with very satisfactory results, while practice-teaching and reading at training colleges generally also showed improvement.

At the examinations of pupil teachers and of volunteer candidates for trade scholarships, for admission to training colleges and for exhibitions at other schools, 415 pupil teachers presented themselves, of whom 250 passed, as against 480 last year with 259 passes, the percentage of passes being 60·2 against 53·9 last year. 469 volunteer candidates presented themselves, of whom 210 passed, as against 662 last year with 190 passes, the percentages being 42·7 in this and 28·7 in the previous year. While these figures show, as did those of 1898-1899, the marked inferiority of the volunteer candidates compared with the pupil teachers, the figures for the three years evidence a more rapid improvement in the former class, due in some measure, the Superintending Inspector of Schools considers, to the raising of the admission fee to the volunteer examination, but also to the taking of greater pains in the preparation of candidates.

Elementary Schools.

Progress or otherwise in these schools may be briefly summarised as follows from the reports of the inspectors.

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JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

Reading and recitation are still in general very unsatisfactory, though the use of the tropical readers, which convey information about matters of daily interest, and the blackboard exercises and methods of teaching junior standards inculcated in the new Code have had good effects. More care is shown in writing and written composition, the improvement in the latter being largely due to the new Code. But the results are still disappointing. Some improvement is shown in writing, but little in mental arithmetic, or in sums requiring thought instead of mere knowledge of rule.

In elementary science, of which agriculture forms a considerable part of the teaching, little improvement is shown, though there is an increased tendency in teachers to use practical illustrations and simple experiments which must in the long run be of benefit.

Drawing shows generally a want of accuracy, though one inspector notes improvement under this head.

Needlework.

The reduction in the grant has led to sewing, in some of the schools without a female teacher, being no longer taught.

School appliances show improvement.

The school accommodation provided is sufficient in most places for the average attendance. A number of schools have raised by subscription the amount necessary to entitle them to grants for school libraries.

The services of a trained Kindergarten teacher were secured during the year at the Kingston Board School for the infant department, and a number of teachers have been instructed in Kindergarten methods.

Agricultural Grants.

The work done at some of the schools obtaining these, and teaching agriculture practically in school plots by raising vegetables, &c., is very satisfactory, but the expenditure generally exceeds the income from the Governments grants and sales of produce, and as manager or teacher must meet the deficiency, the number of these schools does not tend to increase.

The teaching staff is still, in the opinion of the Superintending Inspector, inadequate both in number and quality. The employment of additional women teachers continues to increase in favour, and the inspectors, as in previous years, comment favourably upon the results.

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

ENDOWED SCHOOLS under the REGULATION of the JAMAICA SCHOOLS COMMISSION.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

School.	Locality.	Students 31st March, 1901.		Infants.	Results at Cambridge Local Examinations, 1900.		
		Boys.	Girls.		Entered.	Passed.	Honours.
Jamaica High School.	St. Andrew...	59	—	—	31	31	17
Wolmers, Boys	Kingston ...	105	—	—	29	25	11
Wolmers, Girls	Do. ...	—	152	—	37	26	7
Titchfield Higher Grade.	Port Antonio	14	—	—	—	—	—
Titchfield Elementary-	Do.	122	108	86	—	—	—
Ruseas, Boys ...	Lucea ...	25	—	—	4	1	—
Ruseas, Girls ...	Do. ...	—	14	—	—	—	—
Mannings, Boys	Savanna la Mar	35	—	—	8	6	—
Mannings, Girls	Do.	—	31	—	12	6	—
Munro and Dickenson's— Boys ...	Potsdam, St. Elizabeth.	58	—	—	14	14	3
Girls ...	Hampton, St. Elizabeth.	—	64	—	17	15	3
Middle Grade...	Manchester...	25	—	—	9	5	—
Vere Elementary Schools (8).	Vere District, Clarendon.	717 (Boys and Girls).	—	—	—	—	—
Beckford and Smiths.	Spanish Town	24	—	—	1	1	—

University College, attached to the Jamaica High School, provides facilities for local study for degrees in arts and science at the London University. The work of the endowed secondary schools throughout the Island is tested annually under the Cambridge University local examination scheme.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901

The results of the examination held in December, 1900, were satisfactory for nearly all the schools and highly creditable in the case of the Jamaica High School, Wolmers School, and the schools of the Munro and Dickenson's Trust. One of the High School students, Mr. J. C. Sharp, was placed first in the senior list among all the candidates from England and the Colonies. He gained six marks of distinction, and the High School 20 of such marks in all. Miss C. G. Pearman, the best candidate at the local examination among the senior girl students, gained not only the Cambridge University prize of £12, but also a scholarship of the value of £30 a year for three years at Girton College.

Provision is made at the High School for the practical training of scholars in agricultural science at the Government Botanic Gardens and agricultural experiment station, adjoining the school premises.

The Government agricultural lecturer, Mr. Buttenshaw, devoted during the year a few hours weekly to teaching agriculture to High School boys, and also gave lectures at University College to boys from any school, and to other students.

Drawing was added to the subjects at the High School. Wolmers School entered, for the first time, for the examinations of the Royal Drawing Society, with 69 candidates, of whom 52 passed, 19 with honours.

An examination of Titchfield Higher Grade School was conducted by an inspector of schools, who reported very favourably but recommended certain changes in the curriculum, rendering it more "commercial" than "classical." These recommendations were adopted by the Schools Commission. The curriculum of the Titchfield Elementary School was also reorganised in accordance with the inspector of schools' recommendation.

New schemes have been adopted for the Wolmers, Mannings, and Manchester and Vere Trust Schools. On the recommendation of the Schools Commission, the winner of the Jamaica Scholarship, hitherto a £200 scholarship, tenable for three years, has been allowed to elect in future to receive either £150 for four years or £120 for five years.

Shortwood Training College for Female Elementary School Teachers.

This College is now managed by a Board of Governors, who receive a Government grant of £1,200 a year. There were 30 students in training throughout the year, all of whom presented themselves for examination in December; 27 passed, 7 with honours.

The Manual Training School at Hanover Street, Kingston, which has been formally placed this year under the Board of Education, has classes in woodwork for boys, which are open to

other schools, and also for teachers. The girls' department of the school was closed at the end of 1900, as funds did not permit of work suitable for girls being arranged for. Kindergarten work is also taught.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.
—

Secondary School, Montego Bay.

Average number 29, as against 23 last year. A reduction in the scale of fees largely accounts for the increase. This school was very favourably reported on on examination.

In addition to the above schools and colleges are the Mico, St. Josephs, and Bethlehem Training Colleges for teachers, which are aided by Government grants, and numerous private schools, many of them furnishing a fair basis of education. 23 of the more prominent are noted in the Blue Book Return on Education.

(C.) INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

The following summary gives the principal particulars regarding the Industrial Schools of the Colony for the year under review as compared with the preceding :—

—	Under control of Government, with Board of Visitors (advisory).		Under control of the Roman Catholic Church.		Under control of Church of England.	Total Boys in Industrial Schools.	Total Girls in Industrial Schools.	Total Industrial School Children.
	Hope (Boys).	Shortwood (Girls).	Alpha Cottage.					
			Boys.	Girls.				
Inmates :—								
31st March, 1900...	39	35	40	30	6	79	71	150
31st March, 1901...	40	31	39	33	10	79	74	153
Health ...	Good.	Good, except for epidemic of influenza.	Excellent.	Excellent.	Good.	—	—	—
Cost per child ...	10-792d. per diem.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

At Hope School the older boys receive practical training in cultivation, nursery garden routine, application of insecticides, &c., and instruction in agriculture from the Superintendent of Hope Gardens. Younger boys attend to domestic duties and keep grounds and roads in order. Twelve of the oldest boys are constantly employed at the Hope Experiment Station. Of six boys discharged as time expired, five are now employed at the public gardens and one by an employer to whom he had been previously licensed. The boys at Alpha Cottage do field and garden work, also attend to horses and poultry, cook, and paint and colour-wash the buildings. The girls at Alpha Cottage also do garden

work four hours daily, wash, make and repair clothes, cook, bake, &c. Girls at Belmont in addition to these duties make hats, baskets, brooms, and mats. Basket-making is also carried on at Shortwood, with other elementary industries.

Elementary education is imparted at each school. The marks gained are only reported for Alpha Cottage and Belmont, showing that these schools were graded as first class. Religious instruction is given at all.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.
(A.) HOSPITALS.
(1.) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

Year.	Number refused admis- sion for want of room, &c.	Indoor Patients.								Outdoor Patients.		
		Number treated.	Cured.	Relieved.	Not relieved.	Deaths and per- centage to cases.	In hospital at end of year.	Operations.	Deaths, persons operated on, and percentage.	Number of poor treated.	Casualties attended to.	Prescriptions dispensed.
1898-1899...	4,419	3,758	2,420	771	106	{ 272 } { 7.23 }	189	1,924	{ 10 } { .52 }	864	8,962	22,264
1899-1900...	3,392	3,448	2,504	375	124	{ 257 } { 7.45 }	190	1,062	{ 16 } { 1.5 }	751	6,768	15,504
1900-1901...	3,170	3,142	2,258	297	132	{ 258 } { 8.21 }	197	1,041	{ 18 } { 1.7 }	794	5,141	11,618

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The above table shows that the services rendered by the hospital have been reduced during the three years, both as regards indoor and outdoor patients, and that the death rate among all patients and among patients operated on has increased, in the latter case considerably. This is owing to the more rigorous exclusion of other than urgent cases. Many patients are received in a moribund condition. Of the 258 deaths in 1900-1901, 70 occurred within 72 hours after admission. The study of economy has not diminished the efficiency of the treatment of those admitted, but the cases treated were on the whole of a more serious nature than in the previous year.

The most noteworthy diseases treated during the year were:—

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Enteric fever ...	28	9	Very severe type.
Tubercle	69	27	Death rate much higher than last year.
Malarial fevers ...	561	29	Severer type than last year and higher mortality.
Influenza	26	1	Mild type.
Venereal	200	5	

Cases of venereal disease treated were far more numerous than last year, those of the other diseases named considerably less, but generally of a severer type. The Superintending Medical Officer attributes the marked decrease in enteric fever to the improved sanitary condition of Kingston, and considers that the lessening of malarial fever was influenced by the small rainfall.

The daily average of beds occupied during 1900-1901 was 201. Whilst the extension of the hospital accommodation must for the present be delayed from want of funds, patients have now, in some cases, the Superintending Medical Officer reports, to be discharged before they are thoroughly convalescent so as to make room for the more pressing cases.

The financial statistics for the three years ended 31st March, 1901, given below show a considerable increase over the preceding year in amounts received from paying patients, a slight decrease in total expenditure after deducting these amounts, and a slight increase in the annual cost of each patient.

That cost is, however, appreciably less than in 1898-1899, and markedly less than in 1897-1898, when it was £43 0s. 2½d., or £5 15s. 11½d. more per patient annually.

JAMAICA.
1900-1901.*Financial Return—Public Hospital, Kingston.*

Return showing the cost of each patient after deducting the several amounts passed to the credit of the hospital for the years ending 31st March, 1899, 1900, and 1901 :—

Year.	Daily number of beds.	Gross expenditure for the year.	Amount of dues paid into the Treasury.	Actual expenditure after deducting amounts passed to credit of the hospital.	Annual cost of each patient.	Daily cost of each patient.	Number of patients treated.	Average cost of each patient treated per annum after deducting amounts passed to credit of the hospital.
1898-1899...	205	£ s. d. 8,375 13 5½	£ s. d. 274 14 5	£ s. d. 8,100 19 0½	£ s. d. 39 10 4	£ s. d. 0 2 1½	3,758	£ s. d. 2 3 1½
1899-1900...	203	7,753 0 0	205 16 2	7,547 3 10	37 3 6½	0 2 0½	3,448	2 3 9
1900-1901...	201	7,846 7 11	366 10 10	7,479 17 1	37 4 3	0 2 0½	3,142	2 7 7½

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.(2.) *Maternity Hospital, Kingston.*

The following table gives particulars other than financial of this hospital for the year 1900-1901, compared with the two preceding years:—

Year.	Patients.			Infants.		Pupil Nurses.	
	Number Admitted.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Operations.	Number of Births.	Number of Still-born.	Entered.	Completed Terms.
1898-1899 	500	7	60	502	60	11	10
1899-1900 	580	9	—	560	66	10	9
1900-1901 	483	9	42	468	42	8	9

The ages of patients admitted ranged from 14 years to 40, about one-fifth of the number being under 20 years. The medical officer of the institution calls attention to the small average size of most of the infants at birth, the greater number weighing less than seven pounds. Poverty of physique appears to be indicated as prevailing among those who avail themselves of the Maternity Hospital.

(3.) *Public General Hospitals.*

There were 12,215 admissions to Public General Hospitals during 1900-1901, classified as follows:—

Indentured immigrants	...	...	8,257
Poor persons admitted without charge	...	...	3,132
Constables	...	...	553
Paupers	...	...	38
Paying patients	...	...	135
			12,115

The out-patients were 19,426, of whom 15,787 were indigent poor, the remainder being constables and prisoners. 75 mid-wifery cases were also treated.

It will be seen that East Indian immigrants contributed two-thirds of the cases admitted. The present Immigration Law requires an immigrant to be either at work or in hospital, otherwise many might be treated as out-patients. Further, about 75 per cent. of the immigrants are stated to pass through the

hospitals within the first year of their indenture, when they are becoming acclimatised.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The deaths in the hospitals were only 299, being 2·46 of the 12,215 admissions. The highest rate was 6·77 at May Pen, and the lowest 1·06 at Lionel Town Hospital. There were 1,162 operations, the mortality rate being only ·66. 507 beds were occupied in the 19 hospitals, an average of 26 beds to each. Admissions are restricted owing to the financial state of the Colony, and there is space for many more patients than are admitted.

The total expenditure on the hospitals for the year (not including the salaries of the district medical officers who control them) was £12,986, being on an average from £25 to £26 for each bed.

The most prevalent diseases were fevers, skin affections, venereal and other diseases of the urinary and generative system, diseases of the digestive system, local injuries, and rheumatic and respiratory affections. Of 12,637 cases recorded as treated, malarial fevers, mostly of a mild character, numbered no less than 4,179, and skin affections 2,334, the latter largely occurring among East Indian patients. The venereal cases treated, 449 in number, are reported to be unfortunately only a fraction of the whole number requiring treatment. In these cases, as also in rheumatic affections (425 hospital cases), sufferers too frequently neglect to seek admission till their ailments have become chronic.

(B.) ASYLUMS.

(1.) Lunatic Asylum.

Year.	Number of Persons under Treatment during the Year.	Number in Asylum on 31st March.	Average Number Resident.	Admitted during the Year.	Discharged.	Recovered.	Died.
1898-1899	953	767	775	168	123	119	63
1899-1900	956	819	789	189	69	64	68
1900-1901	1,019	868	844	92	92	92	59

Notwithstanding the increase in admissions and in the average number in residence, the deaths were less than in either of the two preceding years, and the number of recoveries amongst those admitted greater in proportion. The death-rate, 5·79 per cent., was lower than that of last year, 7 per cent. (which is approximately the rate in England), and still lower than the average of the last ten years, 7·22 per cent.

The increase in the number of persons treated has been marked of late years; twenty-five years ago (1876-77) the number was 429, as against 1,019 in 1900-01, and 10 years ago (1891-92) it was 704.

The following are the financial particulars for the three years under comparison:—

Year.	Expenditure.				Minor Funds.	Weekly Cost per Head.
	Met from Poor Rates.	Met by Paying Patients.	Met from General Revenue.	Total Expenditure.		
1898-1899...	£ 11,767 0 9	£ 359 10 8	£ 1,524 12 8	£ 13,651 4 1	£ 1,356 16 5½	£ 0 6 7
1899-1900...	£ 11,514 19 3	£ 454 9 1	£ 1,590 1 9	£ 13,559 10 1	£ 1,380 1 4	£ 0 6 4
1900-1901...	£ 12,333 1 8½	£ 526 8 5	£ 1,510 9 6	£ 14,368 19 7½	£ 1,369 19 2½	£ 0 6 3

The total expenditure in 1900-1901 is necessarily greater owing to the considerable increase of 63 patients treated over the number last year, but the cost per head has diminished in each of the three years under comparison.

(2.) *Lepers' Home.*JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

Year.	Admis- sions.	Discharged and Absconded.	Deaths.	Death- rate per 100.	Remaining at end of Year.	Re- admission. of Lepers.
1898-1899	22	11	20	13·6	118	5
1899-1900	30	5	20	13·5	123	6
1900-1901	22	8	15	10·3	122	1

Of the admissions 2, 3, and 3 in each year respectively were non-lepers.

That the care and treatment of the lepers proper is not becoming less successful would appear from the fact that the average death-rate of the five years 1890-1896 was 12·3 per cent., while that of the period 1896-1901 was 11·77 per cent. The death-rate in 1900-1901, 10 per cent., was lower than in any of the ten years, except 1895-1896 and 1897-1898, when it was 8·62 and 8·96 respectively.

Four persons were discharged during the year, two being found to be non-lepers, and two because bond had been given for their proper treatment in private seclusion. Four persons absconded.

The Medical Superintendent notes that the number of admissions is decreasing yearly; he considers there is not much concealment of the disease among the poorer classes, and that the evidence at hand shows a steady decrease in the disease in this community due to the institution of the Lepers' Home, and, in his opinion, increasing knowledge of sanitary matters among the peasantry.

Treatment by subcutaneous injections of a soluble salt of mercury, of anti-strepto-coccic serum or of chaulmoogra oil has been tried with beneficial results, but the greatest obstacle to the effectual treatment of leprosy has been that the afflicted as a rule do not seek admission until the disease is far advanced.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

(C.) POOR HOUSES AND POOR RELIEF.

The following statement shows the principal pauper statistics for the year 1900-1901 as compared with 1899-1900 :—

Year.	Estimated population.	Registered poor, casual poor, and orphans and deserted children.	Number of paupers.			Percentage of paupers to population.	Pauper expenditure, excluding charges for lunatics and industrial school children.	Charge per head of population.	Cost of each pauper for year.	Ratio of paupers to population.
			Outdoor.	Indoor.	Total.					
1899-1900 ...	745,100	7,198	3,723	811	4,534	·61	£ 24,948	d. 8·04	£ s. d. 5 10 0	1:164
1900-1901 ...	758,000	7,465	3,887	806	4,693	·62	£ 26,260	d. 8·31	£ s. d. 5 11 9	1:161

<i>Particulars for the several parishes for the year 1900-1901.</i>										
Parish.	Estimated population.	Registered poor, casual poor, and orphans and deserted children.	Number of paupers.			Percentage of paupers to population of parish.	Ratio of paupers to population of parish.	Pauper expenditure, excluding charges for lunatics and industrial school children.	Charge per head of population of parish.	Cost of each pauper during the year.
			Outdoor.	Indoor.	Total.					
Kingston (including Pt. Royal).	57,000	1,483	987	206	1,193	2·1	1·48	£ 6,828	£ s. d. 2 4·9	£ s. d. 5 14 3½

St. Andrew...	45,000	432	194	80	274	·61	1:164	1,537	8	5 12 0
St. Thomas...	38,000	322	125	54	179	·46	1:212	1,377	8·7	7 13 10½
Portland ...	38,000	334	169	27	196	·52	1:194	1,302	8·2	6 12 10½
St. Mary ...	51,000	215	79	72	151	·3	1:337	1,317	6·2	8 14 5½
St. Ann ...	64,000	349	199	47	246	·38	1:260	1,568	5·9	6 7 6½
Trelawny ...	37,000	395	187	30	217	·59	1:170	1,131	7·3	5 4 2½
St. James ...	41,000	590	232	13	245	·6	1:167	1,260	7	5 2 10½
Hanover ...	38,000	393	229	40	269	·71	1:141	1,092	7	4 0 1½
Westmoreland	63,000	576	259	39	298	·47	1:211	1,493	5·7	5 0 0½
St. Elizabeth	74,000	341	150	31	181	·24	1:408	1,130	3·7	6 4 10½
Manchester...	66,000	891	511	—	511	·77	1:129	1,790	6·2	3 6 10½
Clarendon ...	68,000	477	220	64	284	·42	1:239	1,665	5·9	5 17 3
St. Catherine	70,000	670	344	103	447	·57	1:174	2,801	8·6	6 5 3½

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The numbers of registered poor, &c., and of paupers, increased in 1900-01, both positively and in proportion to population. The percentage of paupers, 6·2 per 1,000, instead of 6·1 in 1899-00, was nevertheless below the average, 6·36, for the five years ended 31st March, 1901.

Expenditure on paupers was £26,260 against £24,948 in the previous year, and showed a slightly increased charge per head of population and greater cost of each pauper.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The table giving details in respect to the several parishes shows wide differences in the ratio of paupers to population and in relative cost. The ratio varies from 1 in 48 in Kingston to 1 in 408 in St. Elizabeth. This parish, with St. Mary, where the ratio is 1 in 337, has the lowest number of paupers to support, but each spends more per head than any of the others. Per head of population the charge is lowest in St. Elizabeth, viz., 3.7*d.*, and highest in Kingston, 2*s.* 4.9*d.*

In Kingston the increase of pauperism is a serious social and economic problem. The estimated population is about one-thirteenth that of the Island, but the number of paupers and expenditure thereon is about one-fourth of the totals for the Island. The number has doubled within the last fourteen to fifteen years from 580 on 1st January, 1887, to 1,195 on 1st April, 1901. In the other thirteen parishes on the contrary, notwithstanding the increase of population, the aggregate number of paupers had decreased during the same period from 3,984 to 3,498.

Notwithstanding certain instances in which defective pauper administration was brought to light by the Board of Supervision, there is good reason to believe that the majority of the Parochial Boards are successfully endeavouring to improve their administration of poor relief and to reduce its cost to the community as far as possible.

(D.) REFORMATORIES.

Stony Hill Reformatory.

	31st March, 1900. 31st March, 1901.		1899-00.	1900-01.
Boys in reformatory section	97	100		
Girls in reformatory section	9	15		
Boys in industrial school	60	49		
	166	164	166	164
Daily average number of inmates ... ..	...	...	163	165
Discharged (all boys) ... ..	...	...	42	43
Percentage of boys discharged during the three years ended respectively 31st March, 1900, and 31st March, 1901, who were reconvicted.			4.54	4.66
Died ... ..	...	...	2	1

*Stony Hill Reformatory—continued.*JAMAICA,
1900-1901

—	1899-1900.	1900-1901.	1899-1900.	1900-1901.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Gross expenditure	—	—	3,102 10 7	2,945 1 9
Less earning by labour and sale of articles.	325 19 2	314 11 1	—	—
Reimbursements from parishes for industrial school children.	992 10 4	817 8 5	—	—
Total...	1,318 9 6	1,131 19 6		
Net cost to general revenue ...	...	...	1,784 1 1	1,813 2 3
Valuation of work bringing in no return in money ...	...	...	907 0 1	931 13 10
Gross cost per head, per diem ...	...	...	1s. 0.51d.	11.73d.
Gross cost of superintendence and instruction in school, trades, &c., per head, per diem.	...	...	5.77d.	5.77d.
Gross cost of diet per head, per diem ...	...	...	3.08d.	3.99d.
Average earnings of each boy ...	...	...	6 18 0½	6 12 3

Four-fifths of the inmates are of ages between 12 and 16.

The boys were employed as usual in gardening and field work, also as carpenters, blacksmiths, masons, tailors, and bakers, the girls in washing, mending, and sewing. There are 33 acres of land under cultivation by the boys.

The health of the inmates was good. Twenty cases of mild influenza occurred in April, 1900. There was one death from cerebral degeneration.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

(E.) SAVINGS BANK.

The following table shows a comparative statement of the chief transactions of the Government Savings Bank during the past five years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits, including Interest.		Amount of Withdrawals.	
		Government.	Ordinary.	Government.	Ordinary.
1896-97...	29,719	£ 35,923	£ 204,613	£ 25,284	£ 209,178
1897-98...	30,660	45,026	183,759	34,023	195,751
1898-99...	31,870	47,084	189,480	29,345	183,344
1899-00...	32,880	34,302	195,141	59,921	194,744
1900-01...	33,659	42,420	177,964	40,041	198,135
		204,755	950,957	188,614	981,152
		1,155,712		1,169,766	

The number of ordinary deposit accounts in 1900-1901 was 33,177. The table shows that, while depositors have increased steadily in number, deposits show a tendency to decline; while in three of the five years ordinary withdrawals exceed ordinary deposits, the total of withdrawals, £981,152, exceeding the total of deposits (together with interest), £950,957, by £30,195.

The fact that before 1897 interest at the rate of 3 per cent. was allowed whereas only 2½ per cent. has since been given, may partly explain this decrease.

The deposits, without interest, were less in 1900-1901 than in any year since 1888-1889 inclusive, while withdrawals were more than in any previous year. Deposits which had been generally rising in amount up to 1895-1896, shrank markedly in 1896-1897, concurrently with a marked decline in the value of exports in that year. The number of private depositors of small sums apparently fell in 1897-1898, not from a decline in deposits, the total of which exceeded those of 1896-1897, but from the transfer of nearly 3,000 accounts, chiefly of small sums which had not been operated on for years, to the "Suspense Ledger."

The number rose again in the following year and has since increased steadily, as the following table shows, notwithstanding a steady decrease in deposits as shown in the previous table:—

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

Year.	Private Deposits.			Govern- ment Deposits.	Total.
	£5 and under.	Above £5.	Suspense Ledger.		
1896-97... ..	21,402	7,260	673	384	29,719
1897-98... ..	19,518	7,066	3,641	435	30,660
1898-99... ..	20,523	7,162	3,707	478	31,970
1899-00... ..	21,485	7,264	3,641	470	32,860
1900-01... ..	22,471	7,113	3,593	482	33,659

It may be remarked on comparing increase of deposits of £5 and under with decrease of the total sum deposited (*see* previous table) that the poorest class in this Colony have practically no means of investing their savings except in the Savings Bank, and to a smaller extent in building societies (whose operations are now considerably less than a few years ago), and in Friendly Societies. This class will apparently continue to make as much use as formerly of the Savings Bank. An analysis of a classified return of deposits during ten years, furnished in the report of the manager of the Savings Bank for 1900-1901, shows further that, along with a steady increase in the number of small deposits, there is no marked decrease of larger ones, indeed there is an increase in deposits ranging between certain amounts until those exceeding £200 are reached.

There has, however, in the five years under comparison been a decrease in number of most of the accounts above £5, and in all classes of accounts above £50.

Deposits increased during the year only in the parishes of Clarendon and St. Andrew, and decreased in the other twelve parishes, principally in Kingston (among "ordinary" deposits). There were heavy decreases also in Westmoreland, Portland, St. Elizabeth, and St. Thomas, in the order named.

The assets of the bank on the 31st March, 1901, were £450,868, as against £468,616 on the 31st March, 1900, a decrease of £17,748. The decrease in 1900 compared with 1899 was £25,179.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

These assets were distributed in the two years as follows :—

Securities held.	1899-1900.	1900-01.
	£	£
Consols, 2½ per cent.	20,405	20,405
Inscribed Stock	227,201	231,601
Debentures	204,328	176,128
	£451,934	£428,134
Government of Jamaica	16,367	22,654
Cash in hand	315	80
Total	£468,616	£450,868

The uninvested amount (Government of Jamaica and cash in hand) for which the Treasurer was accountable was, it will be seen, about 5 per cent. of the total.

After payment of interest to depositors and the expense of management for the year, there remained a balance of £3,434 profit to be carried to General Revenue, as against £2,997 in the previous year. The profits so earned during the 31 years of the bank's existence have been £37,594.

There were 13 branches of the Savings Bank open during the year, the same number as in 1899-1900. Fifteen sub-branches were open on the 31st March, 1901, six having to be closed during the year. The branches are open daily, and also those sub-branches which are worked by officers of the Postal and Telegraph Department.

Other sub-branches are opened one or more days in the week.

VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The allowed strength of the police on the 31st March, 1901, was 775, two less than on the corresponding date in the preceding year; the actual strength 770, as in the preceding year. There were also 761 district constables, making an effective strength for both branches of the force of 1,531, as against 1,521 on the 31st March, 1900.

JAMAICA.
1900-1901.

10753 The principal duties, besides patrolling and attendance at Courts, performed by the Constabulary during the past five years are indicated in the following return :—

	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-00.	1900-01.
Number of persons arrested on view and on information	8,351	7,330	7,183	8,669	7,504
Number of persons apprehended on warrants	1,780	1,629	1,264	1,375	1,557
Number of search warrants executed	142	148	188	119	151
Number of persons summoned	19,537	17,785	17,084	20,248	18,087
Number of persons subpoenaed	27,161	27,161	25,784	26,073	29,668
Number of prisoners escorted	11,542	12,081	8,912	8,175	9,053
Number of seizures under revenue laws	309	854	605	745	908
Number of post-mortem investigations ordered	641	703	527	550	395

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

By means of systematic patrolling of sugar estates and the outlying districts of country parishes, many offences against the Rum Duty Law have been detected, often at great risk, and sometimes injury to the constables affecting arrests. The detective force has also done excellent work, though numerically not strong enough to cope fully with the crime of the Island. In Kingston, for example, with 55 miles of streets, the available force of detectives and other constables is only sufficient to maintain proper supervision over 10 miles of streets, patrolling by mounted orderlies having to take the place in the suburbs of regular beat duty. In the present state of the public finances, however, no increase in the strength can be provided for. A good report is given of the conduct and discipline of the force.

(B.) PRISONS.

	Year ended 31st March.	
	1900.	1901.
Daily average number of prisoners in custody.	1,088	1,265
Number on last day of year	1,237	1,233
Commitments—		
To prisons	3,624	4,237
To lock-ups	932	1,021
Total	4,556	5,258
Reconvictions	1,305	1,548
Deaths	34	58
Executions	—	2
FINANCIAL.		
Gross expenditure	£ 18,340 18 8½	£ 18,803 7 3½
Gross earnings in cash	4,584 15 0½	4,106 4 8
Net cost of maintaining prisons ...	13,756 3 8	14,697 2 7½
Cost per prisoner	12 12 10½	11 12 4½
Estimated value of labour yielding no pecuniary return.	8,499 8 9½	8,849 19 11
Estimated value of bricks, lime, &c., manufactured and stone quarried (General Penitentiary).	3,847 7 8	3,237 7 7½

The prisoners in custody on the 31st March, 1901, were 1,233, exclusive of those in local lock-ups. This number was 103 in excess of the average (1,130) on the last day of the five years ended on 31st March, 1901.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901
—

2. The state of health at the General Penitentiary improved as compared with the last quarter of the preceding year. The daily average number of prisoners in custody was 695 (547 males and 148 females). The deaths were 25, or, proportionately to the daily average number, 35·97 per thousand. There were 740 cases of sickness, 575 being of influenza and 48 of malarial fever. The 25 deaths occurred exclusively among sufferers from the remaining 117 cases of sickness, 6 being from Bright's disease and 4 from senile decay.

The enlargement of the St. Catherine district prison having been completed by prison labour, the Middlesex and Surrey County gaol was closed on the 31st January, 1901. The large number of prisoners habitually in custody at the St. Catherine prison renders the task of providing hard labour for the prisoners very difficult. It has, however, been found possible to extend the employment of prisoners in cultivating land by using ground adjacent to the railway station, which came this year into the possession of the Government. Endeavours are being made to arrange for the increased employment of prisoners in agricultural labour, both as a means of discipline and training and for the supply of food for the prison.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.
Comparative Table.

Offences as classified in Police Reports.	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-00.	1900-01.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-00.	1900-01.
I. Offences against the person.	6,653	6,500	5,389	5,693	5,091	3,140	3,008	2,410	2,432	2,440
II. Offences against property committed with violence.	394	350	313	335	373	264	229	206	217	243
III. Offences against property committed without violence.	5,700	5,488	4,226	4,262	4,807	3,021	2,995	2,270	2,424	2,756
IV. Malicious offences against property.	169	162	244	156	135	43	39	70	59	49
V. Forgery and offences against the currency.	25	25	33	26	23	9	8	17	17	6
VI. Other offences.	16,201	14,329	13,573	15,712	15,232	10,188	8,969	8,639	10,639	10,597
Totals	29,142	26,854	23,778	26,184	25,661	16,665	15,248	13,612	15,779	16,091

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JAMAICA,
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Principal offences under above heads :—	16	13	6	6	17	1	7	1	—	2
I. Murder, including infanticide.	16	13	6	6	17	1	7	1	—	2
Manlaughter	17	12	14	9	14	5	4	1	5	6
Cutting and wounding ...	885	861	600	450	407	449	476	349	235	227
Common assault	4,928	4,688	3,955	4,369	3,961	2,238	2,029	1,614	1,687	1,786
II. Burglary, housebreaking, shopbreaking, &c.	375	339	292	314	320	253	224	201	213	229
Simple larceny	2,264	2,143	1,870	1,933	2,151	1,073	1,013	917	1,038	1,206
Predial larceny	2,171	2,147	1,493	1,360	1,808	1,277	1,309	920	825	1,085
IV. Arson	29	29	29	26	35	3	5	6	7	6
VI. Disorderly conduct ...	5,097	4,098	3,816	4,377	4,079	3,658	2,826	2,752	3,332	3,122
Obscene and abusive language	3,585	2,869	3,070	3,060	2,879	2,035	1,584	1,774	1,868	1,765
Trespass	973	883	604	855	743	482	471	325	458	414

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

This table shows that the total number of offences has but slightly varied from that for the preceding year. Offences against the person have diminished under most heads, while those against property committed without violence have increased considerably under the head of simple larceny, and particularly under that of prædial larceny, although they have diminished under nearly every other head. The reason given by the inspectors of police for the increase in simple larceny is that of poverty. In many instances the accused are women with infants who have been deserted by the fathers of their children. In the case of prædial larceny, poverty is stated to be the principal cause only in certain districts. In St. Mary, for instance, where the convictions more than trebled those of the previous year, and were in nearly every instance for larceny of bananas, many of the thieves themselves possess flourishing plantations. There appears reason to conclude, however, that in times of depression owners of property are more disposed to prosecute, and that the number of cases is swelled by prosecutions for trifling larcenies; thus, it is reported that in some parishes the majority of cases consisted in the pilfering of a sugar cane or two. The cases of disorderly conduct and indecent language, whilst they have decreased throughout the Island generally, continue to increase in Kingston.

VII. VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION COMPARED WITH FIGURES OF LAST CENSUS.

The population of the Colony on the 31st March, 1901, is computed to have numbered 755,730 persons (males, 366,058; females, 389,672), an increase on the number on the 31st March, 1900, of 10,626 (males, 5,455; females, 5,171), a much smaller accretion than in any of the preceding five years.

During the ten years following the Census of 1891, the population is estimated to have increased by 60,110 males and 56,129 females, or a total of 116,239 persons.

The state of the public finances precluded the taking of a Census in 1901.

In its absence, the increase of registered births over deaths may be presumed to give a fairly accurate indication of the true population, when corrected by reference to the number of persons migrating to and from the Colony.

The arrivals and departures of passengers at Kingston and Port Antonio (the port at which by far the greatest number of vessels call) during the ten years ended 31st March, 1901, have been tabulated and show an excess of arrivals of 8,785 persons.

This number does not include soldiers and East Indian immigrants. In the absence of information as to the countries contributing to the excess of arrivals, the Registrar General offers the conjecture that it is due to persons who emigrated to Central America more than ten years ago having returned to their homes.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The mean population for 1900-1901 is estimated at 750,413 persons. The birth, death, and marriage rates are based on this estimate.

The following table shows that in the year 1900-1901 births, deaths, and marriages decreased compared with 1899-1900. The rates per thousand on the mean population are given in italics:—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1899-1900	31,259	16,880	3,767
	<i>42·2</i>	<i>22·8</i>	<i>5·0</i>
1900-1901	26,869	16,243	3,221
	<i>35·7</i>	<i>21·6</i>	<i>4·2</i>
Decreases	4,390	637	546
	<i>6·5</i>	<i>1·2</i>	<i>0·8</i>

The five years ended 31st March, 1901, show the following comparisons in number and in rates per thousand with the preceding five years:—

	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Illegitimate Births.
Five years ended 1895-96	128,724	73,350	17,359	78,065
Average	25,745	14,670	3,472	15,613
Do. rate per 1,000...	<i>38·4</i>	<i>21·9</i>	<i>5·1</i>	<i>60·6%</i>
Five years ended 1900-01.	141,287	80,422	16,037	88,527
Average	28,257	16,034	3,207	17,705
Do. rate per 1,000...	<i>38·8</i>	<i>22·1</i>	<i>4·4</i>	<i>62·5%</i>

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

It will be seen that, comparing the second quinquennium with the first, there has been a slight increase in the birth and death rates per thousand, but a noticeable decrease in the rate of marriage and increase in the rate of illegitimacy. For the first five years the births aggregate 128,724, made up of 50,659 registered as legitimate and 78,065 as illegitimate. For the next five years the total is 141,287, of which the births registered as legitimate contribute 52,760, a slight increase as compared with the previous quinquennium, and the illegitimate 88,527. During the quinquennium the Registrar General has computed the differences in percentage rates of mortality among infants under one year of age, and finds it far less among those born in wedlock, the average of which is 13.68, whilst that of illegitimates is 19.89.

The records of the May Pen Cemetery, Kingston, also show that a small percentage only of the still-born children buried there are the offspring of married persons.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH, GENERAL STATE OF.

The public health of the Island was generally satisfactory throughout the year. Except in May and June the average mortality was less than in the previous year and considerably below the recorded average of the last two decades. There were no epidemics. There were few cases of the acute gastric ailments which prevailed in certain districts last year, and there was a diminution in the number and severity of malarial fevers, owing presumably to a decrease of rainfall in some districts. Bowel complaints and other diseases of the digestive system occurred with some frequency, owing principally to the use of unwholesome food and impure water. The water supply of the towns is usually good, but the country districts pond water, contaminated by surface refuse, is the chief source of supply in the dry seasons.

Considering the salubrity of the Colony, the death rate is rather high. The present estimated population is about 756,000. The births during the year were 26,869, or 35.54 per thousand; the deaths 16,243, or 21.48 per thousand. A large percentage of these deaths occur among infants. In Kingston the mortality in 1900-1901 of infants under one year of age was 358 out of 1,379 recorded deaths at all ages, and it is heavy throughout the Colony.

The prevalence of sickness and death is promoted by the improvident and insanitary habits of the people, who show as a rule an utter disregard of the simplest hygienic laws. The overcrowding of small huts without ventilation, and the habit of sleeping on earthen floors, conduce to the spread of skin affections, tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases, and rheumatism; while venereal diseases, ulcers, &c., frequently become

incurable through neglect to invoke proper medical aid till the malady has thoroughly established itself in the system.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901

In Kingston the medical officer reports an improvement on the conditions of last year. There were no cases of small-pox, yellow fever, whooping cough, or scarlet fever, and only three of measles. Influenza both here and in the country districts prevailed at times, but in a mild form, being at its worst in May, when there were 13 deaths attributed to it in Kingston. There was a marked decrease of zymotic diseases under some heads, which is ascribed to the construction of sewerage works and also to the energy of the "health officer" and sanitary officers of Kingston in isolating cases as far as possible.

The death-rate of Kingston, estimated at 29.5 per thousand, that of the Island generally being 21.61, is considered in excess of what local surroundings might be expected to induce, and is swelled by the influx of diseased to Kingston for treatment as in or out-patients of the Public Hospital, &c. It is noted also that 28.5 per cent. of the deaths occur in that hospital, the lunatic asylum, or other institutions whose patients come to a very great extent from country districts. The death-rate in Kingston shows remarkable fluctuation according to the period of the year; with an average of 29.5, the maximum in May, usually an unhealthy month, was 48.2; that in September only 15.9 per thousand. The data for ascertaining the general causes of this fluctuation are not yet complete, though it is observed that the hot dry months show usually the less amount of sickness. 16,474 persons were vaccinated as compared with 10,268 in 1899-1900. 15,488 vaccinations were successful. The cases are almost all those of infants, as re-vaccination is rarely resorted to for young persons or adults.

The prevalence of yaws in the outlying districts was considerably reduced during the year. This loathsome disease yields readily to treatment, but is propagated by the prevalence of the idea among parents and guardians that all young persons must undergo the complaint.

(C.) SANITATION.

The Superintending Medical Officer reports favourably on the efforts of Parochial Boards generally to effect sanitary improvements in their respective districts during the year.

(D.) CLIMATE.

- (1) *Rainfall*; (2) *Temperature*; (3) *Direction and Force of Wind*.

Jamaica being a mountainous Island, with numerous ranges of hills rising in the extreme eastern portion to 7,423 feet in the Blue Mountain Peak, and averaging from 2,000 to 3,000 feet in the central and western portions, has a considerable variety of

JAMAICA,
1900-1901

rainfall and temperature. For purposes of meteorological record the Island is dealt with in four divisions.

The mountainous north-eastern division is comparatively cold and rainy, with isolated districts where the rainfall is from 180 to 220 inches annually.

The west central region comes next in elevation, coolness, and rainfall. The northern is largely an elevated undulating tableland, intersected by limestone ridges; the southern portion contains the principal plains in the Island. The two last-mentioned divisions are comparatively dry. The prevailing winds are generally east, east-north-east, and north-east, except on the southern sea-coast, where they blow from the south-east; the rain-clouds discharge chiefly along the lofty north-eastern and central ranges trending west. North-easterly and northerly winds also bring rains to the extreme west.

The north central and the southern divisions are the driest, and possess a real tropical temperature over large areas near the sea, especially in the dry plains on the southern sea-board. Although Jamaica is between 17 and 18 degrees of north latitude, the temperature over two-thirds of its area, owing to the high elevation, is, except in the middle of the day and from July to September, balmy and somewhat similar to that of southern California in the moderate temperature and absence of great variations throughout the year.

The rainfall varies remarkably comparing one year, or even one decade, with another.

In last year's report the averages for three decades ending with the calendar year 1899 were given as 67·41, 66·54, and 76·15 inches. In 1900 the average rainfall for the whole Island was 69·65 inches, and for each division compared with 1899 it was as follows:—

Division.	1900.	1899.
	Inches.	Inches.
North-eastern ...	96·91	103·89
West Central ...	79·84	103·26
Northern ...	50·67	58·44
Southern ...	51·15	74·16
Whole Island ...	69·65	84·94

The rainfall of 1900 was fairly normal, that of 1899 exceptional.

The following are the rainfall and temperature of a few **JAMAICA,**
localities:— **1900-1901.**

(I.) LOWLANDS NEAR SEA-LEVEL.

- a. Negril Point lighthouse (in the extreme west).
Rainfall 1900 ... 40·20 inches.
Mean temperature... 79·5° F.
Highest temp., Sept., 1900, 88°; lowest, Feb., 69·8°.
- b. Kingston Public Garden.
Average rainfall in 29 years, 35·1 inches.
Average mean temperature in 29 years, 79·1° F.
- c. King's House Garden, four miles from Kingston, elevation 400 feet.
Average rainfall for 21 years, 48·24 inches.
Average mean temperature for 21 years, 78·1° F.
Max. temp., Aug., 1900, 90·9°; min., Dec., 60·6°.
- d. Hope Gardens, at the foot of the hills 5½ miles from Kingston, elevation 700 feet.
Average rainfall for 20 years, 53·75 inches.
Average mean temperature for 20 years, 72·8° F.
Max. temp., Aug., 1900, 89·9°; min., Feb., 63·1°.

(The three last preceding stations, being all on the Liguanea plain, illustrate the changes with varying elevations towards the hills.)

(II.) BLUE MOUNTAIN RANGE.

- a. Orange Garden (Resource, near Cinchona), elevation 3,700 feet.
Rainfall in 1899 ... 94·58 inches.
Rainfall in 1900 ... 67·58 „
(No official particulars as to temperature.)
- b. Hill Gardens (Cinchona), elevation 4,907 feet.
Average rainfall in 30 years, 103·75 inches.
Average mean temperature in 30 years, 62·9° F.
Max. temp., Aug., 1900, 72·5°; min., March 53·9°.
- c. Blue Mountain Peak, elevation 7,423 feet.
Rainfall in 1899, 171·28 inches; in 1900, 219·09 inches.
Mean temp., 1899, 56·75° F.; in 1900, 57·47° F.

The maximum recorded temperature at the Blue Mountain Peak in 1900 was 72·9° in April, May, and September; the minimum, 36·8° in January. The temperatures have been taken on one day in each month by an officer of the Botanical Department.

VIII.—POST OFFICES AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

The following tables show respectively the revenue and expenditure for postal and telegraph services in each of the three years ended 31st March, 1899, 1900, and 1901.

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JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

REVENUE.

Year.	Postages.			Commis- sion on Money Orders.	Commis- sion on Postal Orders.	Miscel- laneous.	Total Postal Revenue.	Telegraph Revenue.	Grand Total.
	Packet.	Inland.	Total.						
1898-99 ...	£ s. d. 4,832 14 2½	£ s. d. 16,605 19 11½	£ s. d. 21,438 14 2½	£ s. d. 21 392 9 11	£ s. d. 594 2 3	£ s. d. 125 3 5	£ s. d. 22,550 19 9½	£ s. d. 6,101 9 0	£ s. d. 28,653 8 9½
1899-00 ...	3,649 7 4½	16,476 4 11½	20,125 12 4	378 18 10	633 16 8	157 2 8	21,286 13 4	5,629 17 0	26,916 10 4
1900-01 ...	3,754 14 1½	17,369 10 2	21,124 4 3½	384 3 0	616 17 0½	87 4 5	22,212 8 9	4,714 15 8	26,927 4 0

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.			Services.	Total Postal Expenditure.	Telegraph Expenditure.	Grand Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.	Proportion of Royal Mail Contract with Imperial Government.				
1898-99	£ s. d. 5,388 1 10	£ s. d. 3,014 11 5	£ s. d. 10,652 4 0	£ s. d. 1,998 6 11	£ s. d. 6,140 0 0	£ s. d. 5,001 9 10½	£ s. d. 31,134 14 0½	£ s. d. 9,089 9 3	£ s. d. 40,174 3 2½
1899-00	5,484 19 0	2,994 15 9	9,827 3 9½	2,418 12 10	5,140 0 0	2,986 2 6	28,851 13 10½	8,721 4 11½	37,572 18 10
1900-01	5,916 9 2	2,956 4 9	8,510 17 5	2,507 10 7	5,140 0 0	3,860 6 2½	28,890 8 1½	8,592 6 7	37,482 13 8½

* Includes expenditure on maintenance of Telegraph Lines by the Public Works Department.

*Revenue.*JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The total revenue of the year 1900-1901 was almost exactly that of the preceding year, a falling off in Telegraph Revenue of £915 1s. 9d. being slightly exceeded by an increase in the Postal Revenue of £915 15s. 5d., leaving a net comparative balance in favour of 1900-1901 of 13s. 8d. The decrease in Telegraph Revenue is attributed by the Postmaster to the continued depression in business and in general spending power.

Expenditure.

There was a net decrease of £461 5s. 9d on postal and of £128 19s. 4½d. on telegraph expenditure, making together £590 5s. 1½d. The considerable saving of £1,316 6s. 4½d. was effected in the cost of Inland Mails conveyance, following upon one in the preceding year of £825 0s. 2½d., making a total in the two years of £2,141 6s. 7d. saved under this head. This has been effected by the transfer to the Public Works Department of the duty of conveying a considerable number of the Inland Mails formerly carried by private contractors. A reduction of £158 10s. 3d. was effected in the maintenance of telegraph lines by the Public Works Department. The total expenditure of the Department exceeded total revenue by £10,055 9s. 8d., £3,877 10s. 4d. of which was the loss on telegraph service. The excess of the cost of Ocean Mails over postage received for foreign letters accounts for the greater part of the balance. The Postmaster estimates that were official correspondence and telegrams charged for an additional revenue of about £2,500 would be credited to the Department.

The new direct mail service between Kingston and Bristol by the steamers of the Imperial Direct Line (Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company) was begun on the 16th February, 1901. These steamers arrive at and leave Kingston in the weeks alternating with those of the arrival of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamers, and make the passage in about twelve and a half days.

Postal Business.

The following statement shows the total estimated number of letters and post cards passing outward and inward through the General Post Office during the three years under comparison :—

	Outwards.			Inwards.		
	1898-99.	1899-00.	1900-01.	1898-99.	1899-00.	1900-01.
Inland Mails	1,379,565	1,444,242	1,458,832	1,677,673	1,569,122	1,599,019
Ocean Mails	400,076	421,304	475,150	443,238	492,346	523,609
	1,779,641	1,865,546	1,933,982	2,120,911	2,061,468	2,122,628

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

Adding the above outward and inward mails and mails recorded at district post offices, which are not so distinguished, we find:—

	1898-1899.	1899-1900.	1900-1901.
Through General Post Office ...	3,900,552	3,927,014	4,056,610
Through District Post Offices ...	1,080,071	1,146,386	1,182,573
	4,980,623	5,073,350	5,239,083

The numbers of parcels from abroad dealt with in 1900-1901, 17,544, exceeded those of 1889-1900, viz., 15,878, by 1,566; and those of 1898-1899, 14,901, by 2,643. The increase in letters, postcards, and parcels during the year is particularly noticeable in correspondence with other countries. Thus on Inland letters and postcards passing through the General Post Office the increase was 44,487 in a total of 3,057,851, whereas on correspondence with other countries the increase was 85,109 in a total of 998,759. A large increase in foreign correspondence also occurred in 1899-1900, compared with 1898-1899. These large increases in foreign correspondence are no doubt due to the reduction in the rates for letters posted to the United Kingdom and British possessions from 2½d. to 1d. per half ounce, and in the case of parcels to the adoption on the 1st November, 1899, of the triple scale of postage.

Telegraphs.

The business of this branch declined greatly during the year, only 85,052 messages having been sent and received, as against 96,812 in 1899-1900, a decrease of 11,760. Since the resumption by the Government of the railway, several local post offices have been transferred to the railways stations, thus increasing the use made of the services of the station agents, who have much time on their hands, and serving the convenience of travellers. This policy will be extended as opportunities present themselves. Posting boxes are now provided also on passenger trains.

Mail Couches.

Subsidized by the Postal Department, and carrying passengers as well as parcels, and mail carts, furnished by the Public Works Department, and carrying parcels only, earned £1,059 19s. 9d., or £359 18s. 9d. less than in 1899-1900, owing chiefly to the discontinuance of some of the passenger services.

*Money Orders.*JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

11,431 money orders, of a total value of £32,216 4s. 3d., were issued on other countries, as against 11,835 for £39,242 7s. in 1899-1900. Other countries issued on Jamaica 3,498 for £9,366, against 3,240 for £8,408 7s. 2d. The principal decrease in issues from Jamaica occurred in those on the United Kingdom, which were less by £4,935 3s. 6d. This decrease in such orders has been pretty continuous for many years past, and is attributed generally to diminished trade with the mother country, but it was observable last year in the transactions with other countries also, except British Guiana, and is attributed by the Postmaster to the effect on trade of the increase in the *ad valorem* duty on manufactured and many other kinds of goods from twelve and a half to sixteen and two-thirds per cent. A new money order exchange with Bermuda was established during the year.

Postal Orders.

192,174 orders, with a face value of £30,194 4s. 6d., were issued as against 197,255 for £31,198 15s. in 1899-1900.

IX. MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(A.) REGULAR FORCES.

At the close of the year 1900-1901 there were in the Island three officers on the general staff and a strength of 1,726 of all ranks belonging to His Majesty's regular forces. The strength in 1899-1900 was the same. The expenditure from the Imperial Funds in the Colony for these forces during the year was £119,430, as against £127,609 in the previous year. The sum of the allowances granted from the General Revenue of the Colony to officers, non-commissioned officers, and men in compensation for import duty, also of the amount paid as lodging allowance to certain officers formerly accommodated at buildings now transferred to the Colonial Government, was £7,016 13s. 6d., as against £7,329 2s. 4½d. in 1899-1900.

(B.) MILITIA.

On the 31st March, 1901, the militia numbered 687 of all ranks, 135 belonging to the garrison artillery and 547 to the infantry.

These forces are drawn entirely from Kingston and the immediate neighbourhood.

JAMAICA,
1900-1901.

The annual training took place in January last. The artillery practised at Port Royal, where there are batteries of heavy guns; the infantry were under canvas at Up Park Camp.

The General Officer Commanding reported very favourably on the results of his observations of the force, not only at the annual inspection but on other occasions where he had an opportunity of seeing the corps engaged in practice. He considered that the artillery would in time constitute a valuable aid to the defence of the Colony, and that the result of the year's training of the infantry militia was most satisfactory both in parade drill and in field duties.

(C.) CONSTABULARY OR SEMI-MILITARY COLONIAL FORCE.

The police (*see* Division VI. (A) *supra*), with an actual total strength of 770 officers, sub-officers, and constables, are drilled and trained in military exercises and in shooting. They are armed with Martini Enfield carbines and sword bayonets.

X. GENERAL REMARKS.

I have but little to add to the exhaustive information furnished in the foregoing statements. Though I fear it cannot be said that the Island made any decided progress towards improved prosperity during the year under review, I think it may fairly be maintained that there was no further decline. The marked increase in the value of exports over those of the years 1896-1899, though they did not equal those of 1899-1900, may be taken as an encouraging sign.

The failure of the revenue from taxes to meet expectations was unfortunate, and caused the Government much anxiety and perplexity, but the exercise of the most rigid economy and the carrying out of retrenchment in every branch of administration, where it could be effected without impairing efficiency, made up for much of the loss incurred, and under normal conditions the balance between revenue and expenditure would probably have been on the right side.

The dead weight of "charges for debt," which so enormously increased during the year, principally in consequence of the heavy payments arising out of the unfortunate railway contract, is the incubus which weighs down the Colony, and renders the task of establishing a financial equilibrium so difficult and burdensome.

The Government have striven and are striving to do their best to avoid any additional taxation, which they feel the people can with difficulty bear, but with this "millstone about their necks" their position is a painful and perplexing one. JAMAICA,
1900-1901.
—

The resources of Jamaica are, however, great, and with the incentive to increased cultivation and, therefore, larger exports, which it is hoped will be afforded by the establishment of the direct line to England, I trust the time may soon arrive when the present difficulties and depression may pass away, and an era of hopefulness and prosperity dawn upon this, at present, unfortunate Colony.

A. W. L. HEMMING,
Governor.

King's House,
31st December, 1901.

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1902.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 373.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1901-2.

(For Report for 1900-1901, see No. 351.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1902.



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No. 373.

J A M A I C A .

(For Report for 1900-1901, *see* No. 351.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR OLIVIER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,

Jamaica, September 30th, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit, in accordance with standing instructions, the following observations in regard to the statistical returns of this Government embodied in the Blue Book of the Colony for the year ended on the 31st March, 1902.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

2. Annexed (Tables I. and II.) are returns of the General Revenue and Expenditure of the Government for the year of report (1901-1902) compared with those of the preceding year 1900-1901.

General Revenue Account. Revenue and Expenditure.

3. On the 1st of April, 1901, there was a deficit on the General Revenue Account of £126,302. Omitting fractions of a pound sterling, the total amount brought to account as General Revenue during the ensuing twelve months now under review was £774,837, and the amount brought to account as Expenditure £751,699, showing a surplus of £23,138 and reducing the deficit to £103,164 at the close of the period.

4. Of the amount shown as Revenue, however, £12,456 is accounted for by transfers made, with the authority of the Legislature, from the credit of certain funds accumulated in

former years and hitherto held in reserve for special purposes. The actual pecuniary receipts of the year might accordingly be properly stated as £762,381.

Tax Revenue.

5. Of this total, the sum of £535,791 was the proceeds of taxation, comparing with £499,692¹ drawn from corresponding sources in the previous year, and showing an increase of £36,099, or 7·2 per cent., in the Tax Revenue. Part of this increase was due to the improved yield of established taxes, part to better collection and the recovery of arrears, and part to additional taxation.

Improved Yield of Taxes.

6. Of the taxes in the rates of which there had been no change the following may be specially noted as having yielded increased amounts:—

	£
Customs Duties, increase	7,489
Rum Duty	1,810
Port and Harbour dues	605

Increase in Shipping.

The addition to the receipts from Port and Harbour Dues is owing to increase in the number of steamers that called at the Island. The significance of this increase (172 vessels, with a tonnage of 136,337) will be further analysed in the course of this Report. It reflected the growth of the fruit trade and a moderate but appreciable improvement in general business, which began to exhibit itself in the last months of the year in an increase in the consumption of imported and excisable goods, and also, it may be mentioned, in the Returns of Railway Traffic. Until after the close of the year 1901, however, the Revenue Returns showed practically no elasticity.

Import Duties.

6. The final yield of Customs Duties, improved as it was, still remained £8,860 below the amount (£353,765) received in the year 1899-1900 on the same tariff, and the Collector General considers that in a year of average prosperity, according to the past experience of the Island, this tariff ought to produce not less than £360,000. By this test the year under review is exhibited as one of continued depression. The estimate of Customs receipts for the year now current has, in accordance with the conditions prevailing when the estimates were framed, been placed at £350,000.

7. Customs Duties furnished last year about two-thirds of the total Tax Revenue. The most noticeable fluctuations in the yield from specific commodities were:—

Decreases.

	£
On salt fish	1,612
On salt pork	2,229
On rice	1,746
On cornmeal	345

Increases.

On salt	649
On flour	2,179
On soap	1,517
On unspecified merchandise (16½ per cent. <i>ad valorem</i>)	8,462

The Collector General suggests that these figures indicate a substitution of native for imported fish and pork in consumption, and of wheaten flour for cornmeal and rice. The rise in the *ad valorem* duties shows increased general spending power on textile and other manufactured goods.

Excise—Rum Duty. Methods of Rum Distilleries.

8. The increase in the yield of the excise duty on rum reflects the slight improvement in prosperity mentioned above as experienced towards the close of the year, though the total was no less than £10,234, or just ten per cent. below that of the year 1899-1900. A certain amount of Revenue due under this head is believed to be lost, chiefly during crop-time, in consequence of the consideration that has been shown to rum-distillers in the desire not to hamper their industry by excessive restrictions. The regulations in force do not furnish the Revenue Department with the power of ensuring accurate record of the amounts of spirit distilled, the methods of the majority of still-houses are lax, unscientific and conducive to waste, and the pilfering and consumption of undutied rum by employes are widely prevalent, and are admittedly in many cases winked at by the distillers and book-keepers. It has hitherto been judged, however, that the introduction of effectual mechanical precautions to prevent the stealing of rum would be impossible without introducing a risk of impairing the special qualities of the more valuable Jamaica rums, and that some possible loss of excise Revenue would be the lesser of two evils to the community. Mr. J. Steele, C.B., a highly experienced officer of the Imperial Inland Revenue Department, spent some time in the Island during March and April, 1902, investigating the

conditions of distillation on behalf of His Majesty's Government, and I am under the impression that he will be able to make some suggestions in regard to the management of distilleries that may be of advantage both to the proprietors and to the public Revenue.

Match Duty.

9. An excise duty, at the rate of 6*d.* per gross of boxes of fifty sticks, was imposed during the year on matches manufactured in this Island, intended as a partial set-off to the Customs duty levied on those imported. The absence of any internal duty had practically extinguished the Customs revenue from this article, the high import duty acting as a prohibitive protection. The new duty yielded £583 10*s.* This yield will no doubt be considerably higher in future years seeing that a large amount of stock had been put out in anticipation of the duty. The Customs duty on imported matches shows an improvement of £81 7*s.* in this year.

Soap Duty.

10. A similar excise duty on soap imposed in the course of the previous year yielded £298, whilst the Customs Import Duty on soap increased under its influence by £1,517.

Stamp Duties.

11. The net yield of Stamp Duties showed an increase of £4,698. The duties had in some instances been augmented, but the increase in the total yield would have been accounted for by the death duties received on a single large estate.

Agricultural Produce Dealers' License Duties.

12. The proceeds (£1,924) of the duties on licenses required to be taken out by dealers in Agricultural Produce (for police purposes and to check the stealing of produce), although not a new tax, were carried this year for the first time to the credit of General Revenue instead of as heretofore to a special fund. The accumulated balance (£11,305) of the fund was likewise taken over.

Taxes Increased and Better Collected Land Taxes.

13. The yield of the three taxes now levied on land in aid of General Revenue shows a large increase. Part of this was due to improved collection and the ingathering of arrears, part to increases in the rates, imposed for the purpose of meeting, in part, the newly assumed charges for the Railway Debt and the subsidy to the Direct Imperial Steamship Line.

Change of Tax Year.

14. Comparison is to some degree, moreover, affected by the fact that the period of the year of assessment for these branches

of Revenue was altered in 1900. In order to bring it into correspondence with the financial year, as established for the accounts of this Government in all other respects, the assessed tax year which, by a survival from former custom, began on the 1st August, 1900, was terminated on the 31st March, 1901, and the amounts leviable in that period were assessed as for two-thirds of a year only.

Quit Rents.

15. The effects of this alteration and of better collection and recovery of arrears are indicated by the returns from Quit Rents. These are a uniform tax of one penny per acre on land (except where the tax has been redeemed). In the year 1900-1901 they yielded £6,567, which was paid into the Parochial Road Reserve Fund. In the year under review they yielded £8,220, of which £1,636 was employed for the payment of Superintendents of Parochial Roads and Works through the above-mentioned fund, and the balance, £6,584, transferred to General Revenue Account, to which the nett proceeds of this tax, after providing for these salaries, are now by law appropriated. The total improvement in collection was thus £1,653, or more than 25 per cent.

Holding Tax.

16. The Holding Tax is a direct tax on land, assessed on the area of holdings, but decreasing in its average rate per acre as the size of the holding increases. Prior to the year of account it was payable at the following rates:—

	£	s.	d.
For every holding not exceeding 5 acres	0	2	0
For every holding exceeding 5 and not exceeding 10 acres.	0	3	4
For every holding exceeding 10 and not exceeding 20 acres.	0	4	8
For every holding exceeding 20 and not exceeding 50 acres.	0	5	4
For every holding exceeding 50 and not exceeding 100 acres.	0	6	8
For every holding exceeding 100 and not exceeding 200 acres.	0	10	0
For every holding exceeding 200 and not exceeding 500 acres.	1	0	0
For every holding exceeding 500 and not exceeding 800 acres.	1	10	0
For every holding exceeding 800 and not exceeding 1,000 acres.	1	16	8
For every holding exceeding 1,000 and not exceeding 1,500 acres.	2	13	4
For every holding exceeding 1,500 acres	3	0	0

17. For the year under review the rates of the Holding Tax were altered to the following:—

	£	s.	d.
For every holding not exceeding 5 acres	0	2	0
For every holding exceeding 5 and not exceeding 10 acres.	0	3	4
For every holding exceeding 10 and not exceeding 15 acres.	0	4	8
For every holding exceeding 15 and not exceeding 20 acres.	0	6	0
For every holding exceeding 20 and not exceeding 30 acres.	0	8	6
For every holding exceeding 30 and not exceeding 50 acres.	0	13	6
For every holding exceeding 50 and not exceeding 75 acres.	1	0	0
For every holding exceeding 75 and not exceeding 100 acres.	1	6	0
For every holding exceeding 100 and not exceeding 150 acres.	1	15	0
For every holding exceeding 150 and not exceeding 200 acres.	2	8	0
For every holding exceeding 200 and not exceeding 300 acres.	3	2	0
For every holding exceeding 300 and not exceeding 400 acres.	4	0	0
For every holding exceeding 400 and not exceeding 500 acres.	4	16	0
For every holding exceeding 500 and not exceeding 600 acres.	5	10	0
For every holding exceeding 600 and not exceeding 750 acres.	6	5	0
For every holding exceeding 750 and not exceeding 1,000 acres.	7	0	0
For every holding exceeding 1,000 and not exceeding 1,500 acres.	8	0	0
For every holding exceeding 1,500 acres	10	0	0

The rates on holdings not exceeding fifteen acres thus remained unaltered, whilst those on larger holdings were raised on an increasing proportion, not so far, however, as to bring the tax to a uniform rate per acre.

18. The net amount yielded was £24,539, against £13,384 brought to account in the previous twelve months, an improvement of £11,154 10s. Part of this remarkable increase is accounted for by the curtailment of the previous tax year to eight months; but much of it is due to greater efficiency in collection. No less than £5,444 is the amount of arrears of previous years recovered, £7,957 is computed to be due to the increase in the rates of the tax (the estimate was £7,721), and about £11,138 to be the amount that would have been collected

of the tax due for the year on the old rates. The amounts collected within the year in the four previous complete tax years have, however, only averaged £10,389. The tax this year was collected on 72,010 holdings, the average number on which it had been collected in the four preceding complete years having been only 63,138; whilst arrears were collected from 28,097 holdings, the average number on which arrears had been collected in the four preceding complete years having been 13,943.

19. The statement of these figures can hardly fail, I think, to arrest attention, and may justify a brief digression in explanation, and in exposition of some interesting points in the recent history of direct taxation in this Island, which I shall offer when I come to deal with the subject of local taxation.

Property Tax on Cultivated Lands.

20. Taxation on land was also increased for the year 1901-1902 by the imposition of special rates per acre on land, according to the manner of its employment, in aid of General Revenue, in addition to the rates of the same character levied (under the name of Property Tax) for Parochial Road Revenue, and for General Revenue on lands planted in bananas and cocoanuts. The following table shows the total rates in force for the year as compared with the rates previously in force for the Parochial Property Tax:—

	Previous Rate.		Rate during Year reviewed.
	To Parochial Road Funds.	To General Revenue.	
	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
For every acre or part of an acre—			
In arrowroot, canes, cocoa, coffee, ginger, tobacco.	3	—	1 0
In bananas and cocoanuts ...	—	3	1 0
In corn, ground nuts, cotton, tobacco, vegetables, or ground provisions.	3	—	3
In Guinea grass, or Para grass	1	—	3
In common pasture, pimento	$\frac{1}{2}$	—	2
common pasture, and pimento.			
In wood and ruinate ...	$\frac{1}{2}$	—	$\frac{1}{2}$

21. The total amount yielded in the year by the increased tax was £14,023. Out of this £5,394 was paid to Parochial Road Funds in lieu of the former Property Tax, leaving £8,629 to the credit of General Revenue Account. Allowing for the amount which, approximately, would have been received for General Revenue from the old tax on banana and cocoanut plantations, the yield of the additional taxation is computed to

have been £7,609. The estimate was £6,714. There are doubtless still some arrears to be gathered in. The total amount received from taxes on lands in Jamaica in this year (arrears included) was £46,782, of which £39,752 was for General Revenue and £7,030 for Parochial Funds. The Land Taxes, therefore, amount this year to about 7·4 per cent. of the total General Tax Revenue.

22. The gross total increase in the yield of the Quit Rents, the Holding Tax, and the taxes on cultivated lands carried to General Revenue over that of the previous year was £20,976, of which, apparently, £15,566 was due to increase of taxation and the remaining £5,676 to improved collections and the effects of the change of the tax year.

Education Tax (not increased).

23. The Education Tax, which is a limited rate on houses ranging from 2s. to 12s., in aid of the expenses of Public Education, yielded £11,229 against £9,658 in the previous year, owing partly to the above-mentioned change in the tax year and partly to better collection of current dues and arrears. The total public expenditure for education for this year, I may observe, was:—

	£
Provided by law (Secondary Schools) ...	5,569
Voted on estimates	54,249
Total ...	<u>59,818</u>

The Education Tax pays less than one-fourth of the total of the grants-in-aid of elementary schools.

24. The revenue from sources other than taxation, and excluding the transfers of £12,456 from accumulated special funds, amounted to £226,590, the principal item being that of Railway Receipts, £118,215. This item might appear to show a falling off from last year's railway figures, £134,952, but the basis of comparison needs explanation.

Railway.

The Government took over the Jamaica Railway from the trustees of the bondholders of the late Jamaica Railway Company on the 16th August, 1900, with £48,701 to its credit in cash, and £15,098 in stores, &c. From the 16th August till the 31st March, 1901, the Railway Revenue brought to account by the Treasurer was £71,153, making, with the above-mentioned balances, £134,952 of receipts, as shown. But the gross revenue earned by the railway during the whole of the twelve months ended 31st March, 1901, was only £109,728 against £118,215 received in the year 1901-1902, which thus shows an improvement in gross revenue of £8,487, or about 7½ per cent. I will

deal presently with the railway as an investment of capital, in which aspect it shows a heavy annual financial loss, but I may here observe that the revenue in 1901-1902 exceeded the working expenses by £40,253. In 1900-1901 the excess, for the whole of the corresponding twelve months, was only £20,788, although from the seven and a half months of that period during which the railway was in the hands of the Colonial Government the excess of receipts over expenditure was £21,725, that is to say at a rate very little short of £35,000 a year.

Post Office and Telegraphs. Irrigation Receipts.

25. There is a satisfactory increase of £2,146—more than 8 per cent.—in the receipts through the Post Office, the factors of which will be indicated when I come to deal with the report on that Department; and an advance of £639 in the proceeds of the sale of the water from the Rio Cobre Irrigation Canal. This increase is, however, partly accounted for by the better recovery of dues and arrears.

General Expenditure. Transfers in Account.

26. The total of General Expenditure (£751,699) included, under the head of Public Works and Buildings, sums amounting to £1,979 expended in previous years which had been charged to suspense accounts in anticipation of repayment from loans or otherwise. In order to clear the Colony's balance sheet, without recourse to further borrowing, these amounts were written off as expenditure.

Actual Expenditure.

27. The actual expenditure incurred during the year might accordingly be properly stated as £749,720, or £12,661 less than the amount of the actual revenue as similarly corrected above.

Debt Charges.

28. A decrease of £11,963 is shown in the total expenditure as compared with that of the previous year. The permanent charges of debt were swelled by the addition of £10,984 for annuities on Imperial Loans for Railway Expenses and in aid of deficit, and by the expenses of management on the new issue of £1,493,400 Railway 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock. There is, however, an apparent nett diminution of £29,860 in Debt Charges, owing to the circumstance that in 1900-1901 special payments amounting to £48,706 had to be made on the transfer of the railway for arrears of interest due to the recipients of the 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock to which the bondholders of the defunct railway company became entitled.

Increases of Expenditure.

29. There were increases of expenditure under twelve other heads of Appropriation, amounting to £53,749, the principal being under—

	£
Railway	26,673
Direct Imperial Mail Subsidy	18,329
Pensions	1,981
Real Property Valuation	1,772
Agricultural Services	1,545

Decreases.

The second and third of these items represent permanent increases of expenditure, but on the other hand there were decreases under thirty-three other heads of Appropriation, amounting altogether to £34,452, and representing to a large extent the results of careful economy and retrenchment.

30. The apparent increase in Railway Expenditure (from £51,288 to £77,961) is by comparison with only seven and a half months' expenditure in the previous year. The Railway Expenditure for the whole of the twelve months of that year, by the trustees and the Government together, was £88,940, or £10,979 more than the total of 1901-1902, which thus shows a reduction of 12½ per cent. in working expenses combined with an increase as mentioned above of 7½ per cent. in receipts.

Direct Line.

31. This was the first year of the new Direct Imperial Mail Service for the carriage of mails and fruit, for which Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company receive a subsidy of £40,000 per annum paid in equal shares by the Imperial Government and the Colony. The contract is for ten years from February, 1901. The full amount of the subsidy was not brought to account within the year.

Valuation of Real Property.

32. The expenditure for the valuation of Real Property was incurred, under circumstances which will be more fully explained in due course, for the purpose of providing a basis for the reform and consolidation of the taxes on houses and lands.

General Results.

33. The financial results of the year were, on the whole, satisfactory, but they have not been attained without difficulty and anxiety. The Revenue (£762,381, excluding transfers) exceeded that of the previous year (which with the exclusion of similar items was £730,627) by £31,754, but fell short of the estimate by £7,115. A deficit was only avoided by the economies which

kept the expenditure £16,804 below the total appropriations, notwithstanding the inclusion of charges amounting to £4,902 not provided for on the estimate, for expenses of the Railway Loan Conversion, the Valuation of Real Property and the transfer from Suspense Accounts above-mentioned. The last two months of the year, with their marked improvement in revenue from Customs, excise, and railway alone converted the bare equilibrium which would have been effected by the rigid control of expenditure into the moderate but very acceptable surplus above recorded.

34. At the date of writing this I am able to record that the above-mentioned improvement in the Revenue has been and is being steadily maintained, and I will, in my concluding general observations, comment briefly on the latest aspect of the financial positions of this Government, reverting now to the returns for the financial year completed on the 31st March last.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

35. Charges of Debt made up so large a proportion—nearly one quarter—of the total expenditure, that a somewhat close examination of the composition of the Public Debt may be of some interest. On the 31st March, 1902, this was as shown in the appended table. (See Table III.)

In this table, Division I. represents obligations established by law to pay certain annuities and interest on funds borrowed or deposited.

Division II. represents the Public Debt of the Colony in the ordinary sense of the term, being the amounts borrowed on negotiable securities or from the Imperial Government.

Division III. represents amounts borrowed by the Government and lent to the Kingston General Commissioners, who repay the annual charges to General Revenue Account.

Division IV. represents amounts borrowed directly by the Kingston General Commissioners and the Vere Irrigation Commissioners under the guarantee of the Government. The charges are met from the Revenues of the Commissioners.

Division V. represents amounts borrowed at interest by Parochial Boards from the Island Treasury.

Divisions I. and II., therefore, indicate the total annual debt charges falling on General Revenue. The charge under Division I. (ii.) is subject to fluctuation, those under Division I. (i.) and Division II. are constant and remain so until new debt is incurred or the redemption of old loans completed by the maturing of Sinking Funds.

37. With regard to Division II. it must be observed that the Government is liable to be called on to issue 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock to the further amount of £44,100 so soon as the title thereto, now in litigation, or not established, is decided, and also

that further debt to the amount of £44,000 is being incurred for the improvement of the railway, by borrowing from the Imperial Government on an annuity to repay principal and interest in twenty years, interest being charged at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. These two additions to the debt will respectively increase the annual charges by £1,985 and £2,889, bringing them to a total of £171,309 under this Division and increasing the total nett annual charge on General Revenue (Divisions I. and II.) to £185,106.

Borrowing Powers in Suspense.

38. There is, moreover, legal authority for the raising of further loans for Public Buildings and Mountain Roads to the amount of £176,000 on Inscribed Stock, but there is no intention at present to incur this additional debt.

Recent Debt Charges.

39. Out of the total annual charge of £171,309 above-mentioned, no less than £82,521 will have been imposed upon the Treasury since the 1st April, 1900, £80,206 per annum having accrued through the obligation of the Colonial Government to pay off the bondholders of the railway and to put the line in efficient working order, and £2,315 to pay off a loan of £20,000 in aid of the deficit on General Revenue Account.

Old Consolidated Debt.

40. The Public Debts of the Colony have from time to time undergone consolidation, more or less complete, effecting reductions of interest in consideration of extensions of period. These processes render any analysis of the investments represented by the existing debt rather difficult, and I will not attempt to go back beyond the consolidation effected in the year 1869, when a number of old 6 per cent. debts were consolidated by an issue of 5 per cent. debentures.

Further Consolidation and Conversion.

41. In the year 1882 a fresh consolidation was effected by the issue of 4 per cent. Debentures to the amount of £400,700. Of these Debentures, Stock to the amount of £114,260 was applied to redeeming the 5 per cent. Debentures of 1869, £102,680 to redeeming Debentures issued by the Kingston Commissioners (this amount will be found in Division III.), £95,653 to redeeming Irrigation Debt, £44,100 for Rio Cobre Irrigation Debentures, and the balance to redeem Debentures issued at various times for the construction and improvement of main roads, telegraphs, and public and parochial buildings.

42. Of this Consolidation Debenture Loan, £20,800 was paid off, £319,300 was converted by later operations into £316,147 10s. Four per cent. Inscribed Stock, local and English issues, and £60,600 remains at Debenture Debt in Division III. It appears that by the effect of these successive conversions some parts of the Island's debt will have attained a very venerable age by the time they are finally extinguished.

Investments Represented by Present Debt.

43. The General Public Debt as it stands may be analysed into the following abstract of investments:—

Loans for.	Amount.	Annual Charges.
	£	£
Railway outstanding	2,388,700	117,159
(To be added)	88,100	4,874
	2,477,800	122,033
Bridges and Roads (£100 unexpended) ...	40,720	19,720
Rio Cobre Irrigation Works	120,076	6,278
Coolie Immigration	95,653	4,783
Public Buildings (£37,000 unexpended) ...	107,804	4,390
Hotels	63,475	4,795
Kingston Improvements	24,560	1,228
Telegraphs	14,972	748
Deficit (Imperial Loan)	18,235	2,315
Old Consolidated Debts, &c. (balances outstanding).	99,763	5,019
Total Outstanding	3,343,958	166,435
Add for New Railway Debt	88,100	4,874
Total incurred	3,432,058	171,809

THE RAILWAY INVESTMENTS.

Railway Debt on Old Government Railway.

44. For the purchase, equipment, and extension of the old Jamaica Railway the Colonial Government borrowed in all, under five different Debenture Loans, £833,100.

45. Of the sum of these Debentures £44,400 has been paid off out of General Revenue and £625,200 has been converted for Inscribed Stock, £619,979 at 4 per cent. and £8,000 at 3½ per cent. The annual charge on these stocks for interest and Sinking Fund is £31,359.

46. £6,000 remains due on Debentures at 4½ per cent. and £157,500 at 4 per cent., altogether causing a constant annual charge of £10,468, of which in the current year 1902-1903 £6,558 will be paid for interest and £3,910 for redemption of Debentures.

47. The total now outstanding on account of debts incurred for the railway before it was sold in 1890 is accordingly £791,478 10s., which is being annually reduced by the difference between an annuity of £10,468 and the interest payable on the amount of Debentures left outstanding each year.

Sale of Old Railway.

48. When the Jamaica Railway was sold under Law 22 of 1889, the Colonial Government received from the promoters of the Jamaica Railway Company £100,000 in cash and Second Mortgage Debentures for £700,000 to bear interest after interest should have been paid on the First Mortgage Debentures, on which £1,500,000 for developing the railway was to be borrowed. The Second Mortgage Bonds are now valueless.

Payments for Lands for New Track. Grants of Crown Lands.

49. On the other hand, out of the £100,000 received in cash, the Colonial Government has had up to date to pay £90,919 for the purchase of lands for the railway extension tracks and has conveyed to the promoters 76,800 acres of Crown Lands in part consideration for the extensions.

New Debt Incurred.

50. On the failure of the Jamaica Railway Company, the Colonial Government became liable to issue to the bondholders Inscribed Stock to the nett amount of £1,493,400, to bear interest at 3½ per cent. Up to the 31st March, 1902, such stock to the amount of £1,449,300 had been issued, two bonds for £100 each had been repaid by the Government, and the balance, £44,100, is held for assignment to the parties who may be entitled to it; the title to £38,000 of it is in litigation and the remainder has not yet been claimed. When the whole of it has been assigned the annual charge, as stated above, will be £67,203 on this part of the Railway Debt. The amount of the liability accrued up to date on this account has been charged as expenditure and carried to a Reserve Account for disbursement when claimed.

Imperial Loans for Arrears of Interest and Equipment.

51. On taking over the railway the Government also borrowed from the Imperial Government £88,000 to pay off the arrears of interest due to the First Mortgage bondholders, and obtained power to borrow £110,000 to put the railway in a proper working condition. Up to the 31st March, 1902, £66,000 had been borrowed for the latter purpose; the remaining £44,000 will probably be borrowed in the course of the present year.

52. These loans, which bear interest at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., are repayable in twenty years by an annuity of £65 13s. 6d. per £1,000 to cover interest and repayment. As the annuity had begun to be paid in 1901-1902 on the amount then borrowed the capital debt outstanding on the 31st March appears as £148,961.

The full annual charge when the railway improvements are completed will be at the rate of £13,003.

Summary.

53. The Railway Debt Charges may accordingly be thus summarised:—

—				Interest.	Repayment.	Total.
Old Railway Debt—				£	£	£
Debentures	...	...	...	6,558	3,910	10,468
Inscribed Stock	...	...	...	25,080	6,279	31,359
				31,638	10,189	41,827
New Railway Debt—						
Inscribed Stock	...	...	...	52,269	14,934	67,203
Imperial Loan	...	...	...	4,445	8,558	13,003
				56,714	23,592	80,206
Total.				88,352	33,681	122,033

Nett Profit and Loss.

54. The receipts of the railway in 1901-1902 exceeded the expenditure (as has been stated) by £40,253. This rate of profit will doubtless be increased during the current and future years, but at such a rate a deficiency of £48,100 a year for interest alone, or of £81,780 a year for total Debt Charges, is imposed on the tax payers by the railway.

55. The old railway was a sound and advantageous investment. The returns from the extensions made by the Jamaica Railway Company cannot as yet be compared with their cost to the tax payers. It can hardly, I think, now be questioned that a continuance of the former policy of gradual progressive extensions of the Government railway would have proved more profitable than its sale and extension under the arrangements made in 1889.

Bridges and Roads (Roads and Bridges Debt.)

56. In addition to £16,100 included in the Consolidation Loan under Law 17 of 1890 and subsequently converted into 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock, the amount of £400,000 altogether has been borrowed, principally during the course of the last ten years, for the construction and improvement of bridges and roads, and applied as shown below:—

	Borrowed to 31st March, 1902.	Expended to 31st March, 1902.
	£	£
St. Thomas and Portland Bridges ...	120,000	119,409
Bridges · Law 20 of 1892. ...	100,000	97,338
Parochial Road Reconstruction ...	146,000	138,879
Main Roads	34,000	44,278
Total	400,000	399,903

Portland and St. Thomas.

57. Of the loan for Saint Thomas and Portland bridges, £61,400 was issued on Debentures at 4 per cent. interest. Debentures for £6,200 have been redeemed, and Debentures for £4,500 converted into £4,320 Inscribed Stock at 4 per cent. £43,740 was borrowed on Inscribed Stock at 4 per cent., and £14,860 at 3½ per cent. The liability now outstanding for this loan is accordingly £113,620. The annual charge for interest on the whole loan issued is £4,470, and for Sinking Funds, £1,445.

Island Bridges.

58. The £100,000 for Jamaica bridges was borrowed on Inscribed Stock, £34,000 at 4 per cent. and £66,000 at 3 per cent. interest, and 1 per cent. Sinking Fund.

New Main Roads.

59. The Parochial Road Reconstruction Loan was borrowed on Inscribed Stock, £140,000 at 4 per cent.

60. Out of a total contemplated loan of £100,000, £34,000 has been borrowed for mountain roads on Inscribed Stock at 3 per cent. interest. The amount of £10,278 spent in excess of this amount may be regarded as having been provided for out of the proceeds of the other loans, the accounts of which had on the 31st March unexpended balances to their credit amounting to £10,374.

61. The annual charges referable to the amount of these investments, according to the amounts actually spent up to date, may be abstracted, in round figures, as follows:—

—	Expen- diture.	Interest.	Repay- ments	Total.
St. Thomas and Portland Bridges (Debentures at 4 per cent. In- scribed Stock at 4 per cent. and 3 per cent.) (Credit 5 per cent. on £600 unex- pended.)	£ 119,400	£ 4,470	£ 1,445	£ 5,915
	—	24	6	30
	—	4,446	1,439	5,885
Jamacia Bridges Loan (66,000 at 3 per cent. and £34,000 at 4 per cent.)	97,350	3,234	973	4,207
Parochial Main Roads... ..	138,900	5,556	1,389	6,945
Inscribed Stock: Mountain Roads (34,000 at 3 per cent. and £10,250 at 4 per cent.)	44,250	1,430	1,443	1,873
Old Main Road Debt (Consolidated.)	16,100	644	161	805
Unexpended (in Treasury)	100	4	1	5
Total... ..	416,100	15,314	4,416	19,720

Profit and Loss.

62. I think that it is generally recognised that the money spent on bridges and main roads has on the whole been well invested. Some parts of the new roads and some of the bridges, perhaps, may not yet appear to justify their construction, but the greater part of the work must be recognised to have been absolutely indispensable to the maintenance of the Colony. Without these works the fruit industry could never have been developed as it has been, and the Island must have fallen into deeper depression than it has ever had to experience. But beyond this advantage, I think that it would be hard to deny that the expenditure of the profits on the increased traffic made possible probably repays to the Revenue, in customs and excise duties, the full amount of the interest and sinking funds on these debts. It must indeed be borne in mind that the new roads and bridges have added considerably also to the expenditure of the Public Works Department for annual maintenance. I believe, however, that further improvement and reconstruction of roads, as funds become available, is not only advisable, but indispensable, for the increase of the prosperity of the Island. All progress in this regard has been practically suspended under the financial difficulties of the last few years.

63. I regret that I cannot claim that the construction of the only mountain road that has been completed has been the most

economically advantageous investment possible. The money might even, I think, with more immediate profit, have been spent on other roads included in the mountain road scheme, and still more advantageously, in my judgment, on certain lowland roads.

The road, however, from Gordon Town as far as Newcastle, is of appreciable and increasing value. From Newcastle into the Buff Bay River Valley it is at present only an interesting demonstration of the ability of the Public Works Department.

Rio Cobre Irrigation Works (Irrigation Debt).

64. The total amount borrowed for this undertaking was £126,600. Of this, £6,300 has been repaid, £44,100 was included in the 4 per cent. Consolidation Debenture Loan of 1880 (Law 19), and subsequently again converted for Inscribed 4 per cent. Stock; £13,600 was converted directly from Debentures into £13,376 Inscribed Stock, £5,376 at 4 per cent. and £8,000 at 3½ per cent. £62,600 remains due on Debentures at 4 per cent. interest. The total debt outstanding is thus £120,076.

65. The annual charges for interest and Sinking Fund on the Inscribed Stock amount to £2,833 and on the Debentures outstanding to £3,445, altogether £6,278.

Irrigation Revenue and Expenditure

66. The receipts from the works exceeded the working expenditure in 1901-1902 by £5,810, being a deficiency of £468 on the total actual payments by the Government, but more than providing for interest, which at 4 per cent. on the original capital would be £5,064, or on the outstanding unredeemed capital £4,803. The receipts, it may be observed, were exceptionally high owing to the more effectual collection of arrears. The earnings for the year were £6,936, being £129 less than in the preceding year, but the collections amounted to £7,553. The sale of logwood from the canal banks provided £123.

67. Apart from the balance of the amount of these works with General Revenue as an investment they have proved of essential importance in the development of the banana industry in Saint Catherine's Parish.

Coolie Immigration Debt (Old Immigration Fund).

68. This amount, which was included in the Consolidation Loan under Law 19 of 1880 and subsequently converted into 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock, represents the extent of the insolvency of the old Immigration Fund the liabilities of which were assumed by General Revenue Account.

Public Buildings.

69. In the Consolidation Loan under Law 19 of 1880 there was included provision for £7,804 borrowed for the erection and

repairs of Public and Parochial Buildings. This Stock was subsequently converted into Inscribed 4 per cent. Stock.

70. In the year 1897, £100,000 was borrowed on Inscribed Stock at 3 per cent. for the extension of Public Buildings under the Public Buildings Loan Laws No. 6 of 1893 and No. 4 of 1894, which authorised the following amounts to be borrowed:—

	£
For Prisons	30,000
For Lunatic Asylum	40,000
For the Public General Hospital, Kingston	40,000

Of this amount, to the 31st March, 1902, £63,014 had been expended, leaving £36,986 to the credit of the Loan Account with the Treasurer. The progress of the works at the charge of this account, with the exception of the buildings of the Saint Catherine District Prison, has been practically suspended for some years, the unexpended balance of the loan having been employed in support of the Treasury balances in lieu of borrowing from the Imperial Government on account of the deficit on General Revenue Account. Such works as are considered most pressing and expedient will be proceeded with as the condition of the Treasury balances renders it convenient and advisable.

71. The present state of the account may be analysed in round figures, as below:—

—	Expenditure.	Interest.	Repayment.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Old Public Buildings Debt...	7,804	312	78	390
New Public Buildings Debt	63,000	1,890	630	2,520
Unexpended in Treasury ...	37,000	1,010	370	1,480
Total	107,804	3,312	1,078	4,390

Jamaica Hotels.

72. This debt represents the amount of Debentures at 3 per cent. issued by the Government of Jamaica in aid of the erection of the under-mentioned hotels:—

—	Debt.	Interest.
	£	£
Myrtle Bank	33,900	1,017
Constant Spring	14,800	444
Rio Cobre	7,775	233
Moneague	7,000	210
Total	63,475	1,904

In addition to the interest an annuity of £12,891 is invested to repay the Debentures at maturity.

73. The Myrtle Bank Hotel is now let to a company in connection with the Direct Line Steamers, at a rent of £500 and with the option of purchase for £15,000.

The Constant Spring Hotel is let to the same company rent free for three years on condition of £3,000 being spent in improvements within that period, and with an option of purchase for £10,000. Much more than £3,000 has already been spent by the company. The other hotels are still in the possession of the companies which founded them but which do not repay to the Government the amount of the Debenture interest, and these hotels are therefore liable to forfeiture at the option of the Government.

Guaranteed Debt.

74. The local debt guaranteed by the Public Treasury was increased during the year by £16,500 borrowed on Debentures issued by the Vere Irrigation Commissioners who are expending £35,000 on the construction of a canal and reservoir for the irrigation of sugar estates in Lower Clarendon. An account of this undertaking will be given in dealing with the work of the Public Works Department for the year.

Parochial Debt.

75. The debts of the Parochial Boards to the Treasury, for loans at 4 per cent. for water works, markets, and other public improvements were reduced during the year from £87,873 to £73,023, an abatement of £14,850.

Loan Expenditure.

76. The amount of expenditure charged during the year against Public General Loan Funds was as follows:—

<i>Railway.</i>				£	s.	d.
Jamaica Railway—						
Interest	...	...	...	504	0	0
Equipment	...	...	...	40,447	18	2
<i>Public Works.</i>						
Bridges—						
Law 20 of 1892	...	...	...	2,382	12	7½
Public Buildings—						
Laws 6 of 1893 and 40 of 1894	...			769	2	11
Mountain Roads—						
Law 13 of 1895	...	...	...	257	2	10
				£44,360	16	6½

Kingston Streets.

77. There was expended by the Kingston General Commissioners from Loan Funds—

Kingston Street Reconstruction—

Law 31 of 1890 £962 7 0

Vere Irrigation.

78. The Vere Irrigation Commissioners spent £14,266 out of the proceeds of Debentures issued under the Vere Irrigation Law, 1897, for survey and construction of their works, an account of which will be found in the paragraph dealing with the Public Works of the year.

(C.) LOCAL FINANCE.

79. The Revenues and Expenditure of the local Administrative Bodies during the year were as shown below :—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
Kingston—	£	£	£	£
General Commissioners..	38,690	36,433	2,257	
Mayor and Council	25,661	25,653	8	
General Fund.				
Road Fund	5,123	5,007	116	
Other Parochial Boards—				
General Funds	61,313	64,847	—	3,534
Road Funds	37,148	34,156	2,992	
Total	167,935	166,096	1,839 Nett.	

80. The total balances to the credit of the Kingston General Commissioners and the Parochial Boards at the Treasury on the 31st March, 1902, were:—

£

Kingston General Commissioners	...	11,660
Parochial Boards (including Kingston)	...	30,053

Parochial Finance Law.

81. This was the first complete year during which the Parochial Finance Law 34 of 1900 was in full effect. By that law accounts and rating were simplified by consolidating the Poor Funds, the Sanitary Fund, the General Purposes Fund and the Surplus Fund of the parishes into a single General Fund for each parish, and the several rates into a General Rate, and the expenditure of parochial funds was made subject to the approval of the Governor on detailed estimates framed in the same manner as the General Estimates.

Rise of Parish Rates.

82. In 1886-1887, the first year of the existence of parochial Boards under their present constitution, the average of the total rates for all purposes in Kingston and the thirteen country parishes was 1s. 10d. in the pound of assessed value of houses, the Poor Rate averaging 1s. 7½d. For the eight months, 1900-1901 when the consolidation of rates and extended control came into force, the rates in the same parishes averaged 2s. 7½d., showing an average increase of 42 per cent. in the rate of the House Tax during the period. The average amount of the Poor Rate (included in this) had increased to 1s. 11½d., a rise of slightly over 22 per cent. I may observe that the rates for the current year 1902-1903 show a decreased average, viz., 2s. 6½d., which there is reason to hope may indicate a turning of the tide.

83. In connection with the comments I made in paragraph 18 on the subject of the yield of the Holdings Tax the following observations may be of interest.

84. In the year 1886-1887 the average of the House Tax for all purposes was, as stated, 1s. 10d.

In that year the tax for the year was collected on 77,269 houses and yielded altogether £55,428.

85. Ten years later, in 1896-1897, the average rate was 2s. 3d. It was collected for the year on 66,313 houses, and arrears were collected on 6,532, yielding altogether £54,898. In the following year, 1897-1898, the collection of House Tax touched its lowest level, a rate averaging 2s. 8d. was collected on 58,664 houses and with arrears collected on 9,187 yielded only £52,886.

86. In 1899-1900, a rate averaging 2s. 6½d. was collected from 56,372 houses, the lowest number recorded as paying their dues within any year, but arrears were paid on 13,362, and the total yield was £61,726.

Improvement in Collection 1900 1901.

87. In the eight months' period of 1900-1901, the current rate of 2s. 7½d. was collected from 55,745 houses, and arrears from 12,944, that is to say very nearly as many receipts were given as in the previous 12 months, and the total yield was £52,996.

88. In 1901-1902 a rate averaging the same amount was collected within the year on 64,346 houses, and arrears on 17,312 houses, yielding altogether £62,858. The total number of receipts given for House Tax was no less than 81,658, being higher than in any year since 1895-1896, when it was 82,547.

89. The course of these collections, like that of the collections of Holding Tax shows conspicuously a great increase in energy and efficiency of collection during the last two years. I shall

return presently to the bearing of these figures on questions of the incidence of taxation which have occupied much attention during late years.

90. In any criticism of parochial finance with regard to the increase of rates to which I have called attention it must be borne in mind that, so far as the Poor Rate is concerned, the parochial expenditure has been swelled, beyond the possibility of control, by the increase in the cost of maintenance of pauper lunatics, which in 1886-1887 was £4,971, and 1901-1902 £12,333.

Parochial Road Funds.

91. The Road Funds of the parishes are dependent upon the Road Tax, levied on wheels and stock used on the roads, and the Property Tax to which reference has already been made. In certain parishes, notably St. Mary's Parish, where the soil is very unfavourable for road making and road maintenance, but very favourable for the growth of bananas, the great recent increase of traffic has rendered the local road funds inadequate for the proper maintenance of the parochial roads, and proposals have been made for an increase of the local Road Taxes.

(D.) DIRECT TAXATION.

An Ever-burning Question.

92. A seemingly disproportionate amount of discussion and complaint, both verbal and in the Press, of official correspondence and of unrecognised labour by public servants, continually arises about the subject of the petty direct taxation on houses and lands in this Island for local or general purposes. It seems disproportionate because, although in some cases the sums involved are no doubt considerable in proportion to the immediate means of those liable, the whole amount of these direct taxes is but a small fraction of the taxation which is paid without complaint and collected with no corresponding trouble and friction. I have mentioned that last year when the Property Taxes for general revenue had been increased by 50 per cent., they were only 7 per cent., say one-fourteenth part of the whole tax revenue; but there was certainly far more than fourteen times as much fuss made about them as about the whole of the rest. The parochial House and Property Taxes during the six years following the imposition of the Holdings Tax averaged nearly three times the amounts of the Quit Rents and Holdings Tax together. Since 1896, when the Education Tax was added for General Revenue, the parochial taxes on property have averaged about twice the amount of those for General Revenue. The parochial taxes form, therefore, the heaviest part of the burden of direct taxation on property, and, consisting as they do almost entirely of the House Tax, it is they that are the principal source of complaint and difficulty.

93. I append certain tables (Tables IV., V. and VI.) illustrative of the history of this class of taxation in Jamaica during recent years. The amounts involved may not appear considerable, but the matters they cover bulk very large in our local politics and greatly affect the temper of our community.

94. Table IV. gives an abstract of the returns from direct taxation in houses and lands since 1886.

Table V., a summary of the returns from the Holdings Tax only since its enactment, showing the number of holdings on which the tax was collected for each year, and the arrears.

Table VI. shows the total yield of the House Tax for all purposes, the number of houses paid on, and the average per house paid in each year on the houses that did pay.

95. I make the following observations on these returns; they are open to qualifications and exceptions, but I believe them on the whole to be true.

96. The average Jamaican peasant-householder, although he cannot be said to be indigent, and is not on the whole politically averse to paying his taxes, but rather the contrary, finds great difficulty, partly external and economic, partly characteristic and temperamental, in getting together the money to pay them when due. When pressed to do so, he is more sorry for himself, and complains more loudly, than the representatives of his class, far worse off, in most other countries.

97. Moreover, in Jamaica as elsewhere, the tax-gatherer is traditionally regarded as a cruel and extortionate person, and as it is not possible to employ men of very exalted character or intelligence as bailiffs or runners when legal process has to be resorted to, there are no doubt occasionally cases of hardship in connection with levies for taxes. These are made a great deal of, and quite reasonably so; but in general great care and consideration are exercised by the Collector-General's Department in their proceedings.

98. Thirdly, the class to which the peasant-proprietor has chiefly to look for sympathy and advice is that of the Ministers of religion of all denominations; and though these no doubt, as a rule, encourage him to recognise his duties of citizenship, still they are themselves in direct competition with the tax-gatherer for his contributions, by which their ministrations are chiefly supported, the regular fee for church membership being threepence weekly. It would not be human nature that when they find the householder is behindhand with his Church Dues they should not express a somewhat excessive sympathy with his grievances about the taxes, and should not in the Press or the Legislature make the most of his complaints of "oppression." And as they are the class that next to the Government chiefly

works and speaks in behalf of the inarticulate peasant class, there is a tendency for the difficulty of paying taxes to obtain an exaggerated public expression.

99. So much, I hope, may be stated without offence or injustice

Increased Taxes.

100. In the year 1890-1891 there was added to the existing direct taxes the Holdings Tax, and in 1896-1897 the Education Tax. These taxes (which for the bulk of the taxpayers are at the rate of 2s. per holding and 2s. per house, respectively) were imposed with practically the general consent of the population, the former to pay for a great extension of country roads, the latter in consideration of the abolition of fees in all elementary schools.

Diminishing Yield.

101. In each case, however, the effect of the imposition of the new tax was to diminish the number of persons who paid their taxes due within the year; that is to say that, although the added burden was small and reasonable, it overweighed the means and goodwill of a certain number, and, although the total yield of taxation increased, it did not (as Table IV. shows) increase by the full amount yielded by the new tax. There was a considerable loss on the others, and arrears began to assume heavy proportions.

Depressed Times.

102. When, in addition to these direct results of the increase of taxation with which the Collector-General's Department did not find itself immediately able to cope, there supervened a depression in trade and industry, due to bad seasons and fall in prices, the difficulty increased, and the taxes were in many cases a really oppressive burden. But the law provides that in all cases of genuine inability to pay the Parochial Board concerned may remit the taxes due, and this power has at all times been freely exercised.

Crippling of the Collector General's Department.

103. In the spring of 1897, with the purpose, presumably, of effecting economy in General Expenditure and relieving the pressure of taxation upon their constituents (in accordance with election promises) the elected members of the Legislature adopted the extraordinary step of striking off from the Collector-General's vote for the year the provision for the pay of the "runners" whose business is to serve notices of assessment for taxes and otherwise to carry out the arrangements prescribed for their collection.

Abolition of Surcharge.

104. Moreover, in 1893, the penalty of "surcharge" for failing to make an ingiving of property taxable had been abolished. This surcharge, it must be understood, was not a penalty for non-payment of taxes, but for not making an ingiving to the Collector, whereby he is put to the necessity of sending out a runner to serve an assessment. The surcharge was to cover the costs thus imposed by those who neglected their legal duty upon their fellow citizens who did not neglect it. By making an ingiving, whether the taxes were paid or not, the surcharge could be avoided.

Threatened Insolvency of Parochial Funds.

105. The Collector-General's Department was thus temporarily crippled, and the payment of direct taxes became, to a large extent, a voluntary obligation. The result was an increase of arrears, and of burdens upon those who continued to pay, and a condition of parochial finance which led Sir D. Barbour to form the opinion that the Parochial Boards were insolvent. The General Revenue taxes, being fixed, did not increase, but the Parochial House Tax was bound to, and did, go up.

Insolvency Averted.

106. Sir D. Barbour's apprehension, I am glad to say, has been proved mistaken. The proper way to relieve rates is not to retrench in the machinery for levying them but in the expenditure which they are levied to defray, and at the same time to insist rigorously on their payment by all who can pay them.

Improved Position.

107. This policy has been followed out by the Government in legislation and in administration during the last two years. The provision for surcharges for not making the ingiving has been restored and facilities for the payment of taxes by quarterly instalments have been given. The result has been that even in a period of continued depression the current taxes have been better collected and a larger amount of arrears recovered than for years previously, and this with no proportionate amount of hardship to the payers. Complaints have been made, and many, though not deemed entitled to remission, have no doubt found a difficulty in paying, but the great bulk of the recovery has been made from persons who could well manage to pay and who, under the laxity of collection that had been temporarily rendered inevitable, would have evaded payment and thrown the burden on their neighbours.

The Parochial Boards for the most part now recognise the need for retrenchment. The growth of parochial expenditure in proportion to the rateable values, has, I hope, been

checked; the rise of the rates in certain parishes has reached a turning point, the parochial exchequer is in a sounder position than it has been for a long time, and the improvement in collection, for which the Collector-General's Department deserves the greatest credit, having effected it in a year in which it had the added burden thrown upon it of making a valuation of all real property in the Island, cannot fail, I trust, to enable still further reduction of rates to be effected in the next few years.

Need of Reform of Direct Property Taxes.

108. At the same time, it appears unquestionable, and the Government has adopted the view, that the total burden of the present direct taxes on the poorest class of property-holders is onerous and unfair, especially that of House Tax, houses alone bearing practically the whole of the local expenditure other than that on roads. A readjustment is needed, not only on grounds of equity, but, because as matter of practice it is better to have a low tax that can be collected upon the poorest class than a tax that must either be remitted or collected at the cost of unquestionable hardship to the taxpayers and excessive expense to the Government.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

109. Annexed is a table (VII.) showing the values of the imports and exports in the last five years as assessed by the Customs Department.

Increase of Exports.

110. The value of the Island produce and manufactures exported during the twelve months of 1901-1902 was assessed at £1,823,684, an increase of £85,161, or about 5 per cent. on the amount of last year's returns. British and foreign products and manufactures to the value of £38,727 and £76,731 in coin or bullion were also exported, making a total of £1,939,142, to compare with last year's total of £1,797,076, a gross increase of £142,066.

Increase of Imports.

111. The value of all imports was £1,699,525, an increase of £46,858 over last year's total, £1,652,677. The imports included £30,135 in coin or bullion.

Export Trade.

112. The exports of Island products (although I feel bound to say that I think the values under certain items are probably somewhat over-estimated, and in other cases perhaps under-estimated) show a substantial and satisfactory increase and, on the whole, a continuous progress during the five years for which the figures are given. This year's total is £165,597, or 10 per cent., above the annual average of the period, £1,658,087.

Excess of Exports.

The excess of the value of exports over imports, £239,617, or upwards of 14 per cent., was noticed last year and commented on as follows in last year's Blue Book Report:—

“The explanation of this course of trade is probably to be found in the fact that the investments of borrowed capital in railway extensions and other public works and private undertakings has come to an end, whilst increased debt charges on the borrowings, public and private, of recent years have now to be paid for by the excess of the exports. Whilst the free expenditure of borrowed money was proceeding, the distribution of wages both stimulated the importations of foreign commodities and withdrew industry from the production of exportable goods. Under this influence and that of current low prices, sugar cultivation fell off, and much of the established coffee cultivation was neglected. The taxation necessary to pay for increased debt charges has now consequently to be levied on partially diminished resources, and the foreign purchasing power of the community bears a less proportion to its exports than formerly.”

Heavy Remittances (Foreign Profits).

113. I may add that the Colonial Government alone has to remit more than £200,000 a year to England for debt charges, shipping and telegraph subsidies and other public expenditure. A considerable amount of the value of the fruit exports must remain in the United States as profits of the United Fruit Company, and the claims of other creditors and investors may well be presumed sufficient to account for the balance of this excess, which I shall expect to prove to be normal so long as we do not resume the borrowing of large amounts of capital from abroad for expenditure in the Island.

Principal Staples of Export.

Table VIII. gives particulars of the exports this year and last of the ten leading products of the Island. It will be observed that bananas head the list, with a value of £825,288,

nearly 45 per cent. of the total value of exports for the year. By adding the value of other fresh fruit, viz.:—

					£
Oranges	...	...	...	...	102,780
Grape fruit	...	...	...	...	7,671
Limes	...	...	...	...	441
Mangoes	...	...	...	...	726
Pineapples	...	...	...	...	2,361

we get a total of £939,167 as the value of perishable fruit exported—more than half the total.

Banana Trade (Trade with England by Direct Line).

114. The banana trade showed an improvement of one-third in amount and value. The number of stems exported rose from eight and a quarter millions to eleven millions. This improvement was to be expected having regard to the great increase in the area planted during the last few years, and would have been realised earlier but for the disastrous storm of October, 1899. Cold weather and continuous heavy rains in the autumn of 1901 also somewhat retarded the maturing of the spring fruit of 1902 and impaired its size, but on the whole the year 1901-1902 has been a good and profitable year for the banana industry. In Sir A. Hemming's Report on the Blue Book of last year the institution of the Direct Imperial Line of Steamers was referred to as a good augury for the fruit trade. These steamers began their service in February, 1901, being under contract to carry 20,000 bunches of bananas to England every fortnight. The following statement shows the total amounts and values of fresh fruit carried to England by this line during the 12 months of 1901-1902. The similar exports by the Royal Mail Line are shown for comparison:—

	Direct Line.			Royal Mail.		
	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	
		£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Bananas, bunches...	643,846	48,288	9 0	9,401	605	1 6
Orange, No. ...	5,610,850	7,294	2 0	2,794,075	3,632	6 0
Pines, dozen ...	5,733	1,146	17 8	1,214	242	13 8
Mangoes, packages	1,525	331	1 8	346	108	8 4
Fruit, other kinds...	—	2,013	19 8	—	935	1 1
Total ...	—	59,074	10 0	—	5,524	0 7

So far as the actual addition made to the volume of the fruit trade is concerned, the effect of this experiment might not appear considerable. The quantity of bananas carried is less than one

quarter of the mere increase in the export of that staple for the year, and had the fruit not been sent to England it would doubtless have gone, though possibly at some loss of price, to the United States. Important results have, however, been achieved, in regard to the development and prospects of the fruit growing industry. It has been proved that bananas can be carried to England in a marketable condition. It has been proved that a large demand for them may be expected at a paying price, and an independent company has been formed to run, without a subsidy, a second fortnightly service for the purchase of from 30,000 to 40,000 bunches each trip. It is recognised by all concerned that if such ventures are to be successful the volume of the trade must be multiplied by a large factor, and those who have invested large capital in the enterprise are well qualified and determined to effect this. As yet, however, the value of the fruit exported to England is little more than 6 per cent. of the total. For the sale of the balance we have still to rely entirely on the American market.

Experiment by the Royal Mail S. P. Company.

115. A very regrettable check to the enterprise of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in connection with the promotion of the fruit trade occurred during the year. This Company had allowed one of their vessels, the "Para," to be fitted with a large compartment for the transport of fruit under the safeguard of what was known as the Lawton process, whereby the maturing of fruit was to be suspended by the exhaustion of oxygen from the chamber. Mr. Lawton, the inventor of the process, in concert with the United Fruit Company, prepared a shipment of bananas for transport to England, but on the second day of the voyage an explosion occurred in the fruit hold, Mr. Lawton and two of his assistants were killed, and the experiment was summarily concluded.

Orange Trade.

116. The quantity and value of the oranges exported showed a decline. This is not, in my opinion, altogether to be regretted. The orange trade has still to be put on a proper basis, and it appears that only the discipline of failure will teach some Jamaica shippers how alone this can be done. In the years 1899 and 1900, when great quantities were shipped, much harm was done to the reputation of Jamaica oranges by wholesale consignments of undersized and immature fruit and of other stuff rendered worthless by careless picking and bad packing. The trade can, I believe, by careful handling be made more valuable to the Island than it has ever yet been, but this can be effected only by repairing and fostering the good name of Jamaica fruit in the markets of the United States and Great Britain. Proposals for a bill to control the quality of exported fruit have

been formulated by a committee of the Agricultural Society representative of the orange trade, but the proposals have not altogether commended themselves to some of the principal shippers. A steadily increasing quantity of fine oranges of selected varieties is now coming into the market from planted groves, the produce from which, even if not in all cases superior to the native "wild" fruit, is less liable to be injured in picking and can be packed to greater advantage. The export of grape-fruit, which shows little recent advance in value, may be expected to increase before long in like manner.

Dependence on Fruit Precarious.

117. However acceptable may be the development of the fruit trade it cannot be regarded as quite satisfactory that the Island should only have been saved from a decline in the value of its exports by the increase in the production of bananas, the most perishable and precarious of its staples. The increase in the value of this export appears at £206,652, and I think that it is probably over-estimated by the rating of 1s. 6d. a stem adopted by the Collector of Customs. This rate, however, is the same as that followed in the statistics of the last two previous years, and as there has not been any fall may fairly serve for comparison. The price of the full-sized bunch (nine hands and upwards) at the shipping place ranges from 1s. to 2s. 6d. according to season, and is highest at the busiest time. But the bunches are by no means all of them full-sized, and four eight-hand bunches are paid for as three, four seven-hand bunches as two full-sized bunches. Unless, therefore, the proportion of full-sized bunches is high, it seems doubtful whether the average price for the whole year would prove to have been as high as 1s. 6d. per stem exported.

118. The only other exports that are credited with substantial increase in value are cocoanuts (£20,473), cocoa (£18,436), log-wood (£5,176), and fustic (£7,637).

Cocoanuts and Cocoa.

119. Improved prices and demand for cocoanuts increased the quantity exported by 30 per cent. in total amount, and in value by nearly 50 per cent. The quantity of cocoa exported rose by no less than 70 per cent., notwithstanding a fall in price of from 10s. to 15s. per cwt., and realised 30 per cent. more in total amount. This increase is among the most satisfactory features in the year's economy. It may be taken to indicate that a considerable amount of young cocoa has been planted among bananas as a permanent crop and otherwise, and is beginning to come into bearing. The cocoa crop of the Island is, however, as yet insignificant in importance compared with what it might, should, and I hope shortly will be. Great attention has been

paid by the Agricultural Department to the encouragement of this cultivation.

Logwood (Course of Trade in Logwood.)

120. The export of logwood shows an increase of 20·8 per cent. in quantity and a little over 5 per cent. in value. Price was lower, but it still pays those who have logwood on their properties to cut and ship. Upwards of 5,000 tons were consumed in this Island by the West India Chemical Works, which exported logwood extract valued at £26,145. The following statistics furnished to me by Mr. C. E. De Mercado, of Kingston, of the arrivals of Jamaica logwood and roots at the ports of Hamburg, Havre, and of the United Kingdom for the years 1897 to 1901 are of interest. The trade with the United Kingdom, it will be noticed, has fallen from 11,589 tons in 1897 to 1,765 tons in 1901:—

—	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Imports into Hamburg—					
Straight	500	180	170	200	500
Roots	650	1 250	900	1,800	3,100
Imports into Havre—					
Straight	4,785	4,995	6,875	2,845	4,560
Roots	1,795	3,990	4,545	2 820	3,605
Imports into United Kingdom—					
Straight and Roots ...	1,765	733	1,476	4,988	11,589

121. The place of Jamaica wood and roots has been largely taken by Haitian roots. Formerly these roots used not to be dug in Haiti, but of recent years they have been dug there largely. Moreover, the high rate of exchange that has been ruling in Haiti has enabled the exporters of the wood to accept comparatively low prices in gold, thus keeping down the price of Jamaica wood.

122. The comparative survival of the Havre trade will be noticed. This is probably due, in part at least, to the protective shipping policy of the French Government. The effect of their *sur-taxe d'entrepôt* is to draw consignments direct to Havre for orders.

Fustic.

123. There has been a marked increase in the price and demand for fustic during the past year, which still continues. I have been informed that this has been due to the brisk market for khaki dye-stuffs, and especially to changes in the uniform in the German Army.

Coffee.

124. The quantity of coffee exported increased by 17,219 cwt., or more than 20 per cent., but the value fell from £157,484 to £152,091, or 3·4 per cent. The Island crop was abundant, but the return disappointing.

The enormous crops produced in the Brazils have kept the price very low. In the autumn of 1901, on its being reported that there would be a smaller crop there, the prices showed a considerable improvement, equal, in Jamaica ordinary sorts, to from 6s. to 7s. per cwt., but later came information that there would not be such a falling off in the Brazil crop as had been anticipated, and that even if there were the accumulated stocks would be sufficient to keep prices down, and the markets again receded.

Low Price due to Bad Curing.

125. There can be no doubt, however, that the principal falling off has been in the ordinary sorts which are roughly cured by drying the cherry in its double skin and removing this by pounding in a mortar, and that the washed kinds, whilst much lower than they were in former years, obtain much better prices in comparison. Despite the low prices, if in those districts where the coffee is not pulped and washed the settlers who grow the bulk of our ordinary coffee were to combine, as they have done in some instances, to obtain pulping machines and hulling mills and to cure their coffee properly, there can be no doubt that the export value of our coffee would be increased by about 25 per cent. Indeed, this is a moderate estimate. During the fluctuations of the last two years the prices of these better cured coffees have kept comparatively steady, although, of course, steady at lower prices than formerly. Another circumstance which has been pointed out to me by Mr. De Mercado is that whilst at times it has been almost impossible to sell the ordinary grades of Jamaica coffee, the grades of Jamaica washed coffee have invariably met with a ready sale.

Unfortunately, the lack of water in Manchester and other limestone coffee districts renders the proper washing of coffee a matter of difficulty for a population who will not be persuaded to build tanks even for their domestic supply.

Rum.

126. The export of rum increased by 17,605 gallons, but decreased in value by £27,818, owing to a fall in prices. The companion export, sugar, shows similar ill-fortune. The crop was good, the export increased by 26,653 cwt., but the value fell by £29,237.

Sugar, Great Fall in Price.

During the year under review the prices of sugar have ranged extremely low, there being a fall as between the first month

of the financial year, viz., April, 1901, and the last month of the financial year, March, 1902, of £2 10s. per ton. Comparing the first quarter of the year 1901-1902 with the first quarter of the year 1900-1901, we find that there has been a drop in price of about £1 7s. 6d. per ton. Comparing the second quarters of these years, there is also a marked falling off in the comparative average values, probably amounting to £2 per ton. The third quarter of 1900-1901 showed a difference in value of about £2 5s. per ton, and the last quarter a difference in value of about £3 5s. per ton.

127. The netting value in the Island on the 31st March, 1900, of muscavado testing 89° was £10 5s. per ton; its netting value on the 31st March, 1901, was £8 per ton, and on the 31st March, 1902, £5 17s., a drop of 43 per cent. in two years.

Previous State of the Sugar Industry.

128. These are conditions under which it is impossible for any but a few sugar estates to pay their way. The future of the industry depends on the results of the abolition of bounties under the Brussels International Sugar Convention of this year, which are still uncertain. It is doubtful how many estates can hold out until those results are established.

Pimento.

129. The exports of pimento fell off by about 28 per cent. in amount and value, the decline in value being £31,314. The crop of the year 1901 which would in ordinary conditions govern the statistics of the year 1901-1902 was some 30,000 bags smaller than the previous crop, but for the reason that it came after two very large crops its shortness did not improve prices. It would appear, however, that during the past few years the growers have obtained better prices for pimento than they usually realised hitherto. There is reason to believe that the consumption of the article is somewhat on the increase, and Jamaica commands the supply.

Ginger.

130. The decline in the quantity and value of ginger appears to be due to decreased production of recent years, though the prices of the year showed a slight improvement.

Honey &c.

131. Honey and beeswax are products which promise well and are increasingly popular with enterprising managers of small properties in the Island. It is regrettable that an increase in the export of honey gave no increase in value. Intelligent attention is being given to this industry, and the recent formation of a strong Beekeepers' Association will probably do much

to maintain the standard of quality and the reputation of Jamaica produce, upon which the stability of prices will depend.

Annatto.

132. The export of Annatto fell in quantity by about 80 per cent. and in value from £5,800 to £1,643. This was owing to the cornering of the entire market by an American trust.

Relative Importance of Principal Exports.

133. The following statement shows the relative proportions of the chief exports of Island produce during the last five years:—

—	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900	1900-01.	1901-02.
Sugar	8.3	9.8	10.8	9.5	7.0
Rum	6.3	6.1	7.2	8.8	6.4
Coffee	11.4	10.5	7.8	9.1	7.8
Dyewoods	8.9	8.8	4.8	6.2	6.2
Fruit	42.8	41.4	45.0	45.2	51.6
Pimento	3.6	8.3	9.7	6.4	4.0
Minor products ...	18.7	15.1	14.7	14.8	17.0

Imports.

134. Analysis of the imports into the three classes prescribed for the Board of Trade returns shows that

In Class 1, food, drink, and narcotics, there is a decrease this year of £24,269.

In Class 2, raw materials, an increase of £10,472, and

In Class 3, manufactured articles, an increase of £61,395.

135. The shrinkage in Class 1 is apparently due, as has been above suggested, to increased consumption of Island produce, the price of some imported foodstuffs having advanced, whilst seasons were favourable and local supplies abundant and cheap. The increase in raw materials and manufactured articles indicates an advance in general purchasing power and demand for commodities, especially wearing apparel and other soft goods, which increased by £52,074. The importations of wheaten flour (a commodity which here stands on the boundary line between necessity and luxury) increased by 9,103 barrels in quantity and £8,192 in value.

Destination and Sources of Exports and Imports.

136. There was a considerable increase (561 head) in the importation of sheep (which might have been bred in the

Island). The subjoined tables show the proportions in which the exports and imports of the year were divided between their several destinations and sources:—

Destination of Exports.	1897-98.	1898-99	1899-1900	1900-01.	1901-02.
United Kingdom	22·0	20·6	19·2	18·8	21·1
United States	62·3	59·1	63·6	63·8	65·6
Canada	1·4	1·4	1·6	1·8	1·6
Other countries	14·3	18·9	15·6	15·6	11·7

Survey of Imports.	1897-98	1898-99.	1899-1900	1900-01.	1901-02.
United Kingdom	47·2	44·7	47·2	45·4	46·8
United States	43·0	45·1	43·0	43·0	43·3
Canada	7·1	7·1	7·1	8·4	7·0
Other countries	2·7	3·1	2·7	3·2	2·9

British Trade.

137. A small increase in the percentage of both branches of trade with the United Kingdom is observable. This is attributable, no doubt, to the improved facilities afforded by the new Direct Line and to the purchases of fruit for conveyance by it. The increase in imports was entirely in manufactured goods, of which the United Kingdom supplied 68 per cent. (value £642,994). Of raw materials, 85·1 per cent. came from the United States and only 13·1 per cent. from the United Kingdom, whereas in the two preceding years the proportions were as below:—

—	1899-1900.	1900-01.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom	33·2	20·3
United States	63·8	75·8
Other Countries... ..	3·0	3·9

Coal Trade.

138. The supply of coal is passing to the United States owing to differences both in freight and cost. The superiority of English steam coal is not sufficiently pronounced to countervail this tendency. Welsh coal has been recently imported for the Government railway, but the results have been unsatisfactory

and the experiment has proved too costly to be repeated, so long as American coal remains at its normal price.

(B.) SHIPPING.

Increase of Trade.

139. The returns of shipping for the year show 242 sailing vessels reported, against 281 in 1900-1901, a decrease of 39 in numbers and 5,109 in tonnage.

In steam vessels an increase is shown, from 756 to 928, 172 in numbers and 136,337 in tonnage.

106 more steamers entered at Port Antonio, 76 more at Kingston and 10 less at the other ports of the Island.

Nationality of Tonnage.

140. The number of British steamships reported was 15 less, and the decrease in British tonnage 11,636, notwithstanding the accession of the Imperial Direct Line. There was an increase of 187 in entries of foreign steamers, distributed as below:—

American	...	...	...	...	...	27
Cuban	...	...	...	...	...	12
German	...	...	...	...	...	56
Norwegian	...	...	...	...	...	72
Russian	...	...	...	...	...	20

During the year 105 steamers arrived from the United Kingdom, as against 81 in the previous year, an increase of 24; whilst 89 cleared for the United Kingdom against 61, an increase of 28. The increase was due to the regular fortnightly running of the steamers of the Imperial Direct Line, which began in February, 1901.

141. From the United States 634 vessels entered, against 468 in the previous year, 611 cleared for the United States against 488, increases of 166 and 123, respectively, corresponding with the advance in the fruit trade with the United States.

Causes affecting Nationality and Destination of Tonnage.

142. The decrease in British and increase in American tonnage is mainly due to the transfer to the Hamburg American Company of the steamers of the Atlas Line, formerly under the British flag, trading between New York, Kingston, and Central America. It may be pointed out that there is a continuous tendency for Island produce destined for Europe to be shipped direct to Havre or Hamburg, instead of as formerly by way of London. Even where goods are not sold direct to foreign countries a gradually increasing proportion is being sent to Havre for

orders, in consequence of the French surtax on Colonial produce coming into France by way of any foreign port. If a merchant sends his goods to London and the market there is not favourable he is unable to ship it to France, but if it is shipped first to Havre he has a better opening for the French market, and can, if this is unfavourable, ship thence to London or elsewhere. In illustration of the results of these conditions it may be noted that in addition to the steamers of the Hamburg-American Line which sail to Havre once a month from Kingston, the Royal Mail Company have found it advisable, besides their regular English-bound steamers, to put on a monthly steamer which goes direct to Havre first and thence to London.

(C.) LAND GRANTS, SURVEYS AND CROWN LANDS.

Surveys.

143. The Surveyor-General reports that 258 lineal miles of survey work have been done in the year, divided into 148 miles of forfeited lands and laying out of roads, and 110 miles on account of sales of lands. Several surveys of some importance have been undertaken, among them that of the Accompong Maroon lands in St. Elizabeth and Point Hill in St. Catherine. In the case of the Maroon lands the lines had been run 30 years ago, but the Maroons had cut down all the mark-trees, and when remonstrated with for trespassing on surrounding lands belonging to Government declared that they did not know the lines. It became necessary, therefore, to re-run and mark the lines. There was much opposition from the Maroons to the work, culminating at last in a disturbance. With police aid, however, the running of the lines was completed.

Grants of Land to Settlers.

144. The sale of land to small settlers continues to progress. During the year 347 applications were received for 2,516 acres, and 373 lots, aggregating 3,157 acres, were surveyed and allotted to the applicants. From 1st January, 1897, to 31st March, 1902, a total of 1,827 applications have been received covering 16,735 acres, of which 1,479 applications have been satisfied, covering 16,184 acres. The total amount paid to 31st March by small settlers on account of the purchase of land is £6,339 16s. Out of the 16,735 acres that have been allotted, only 323 acres have reverted to the Crown through failure of the purchasers to pay their instalments, and of these, 167 acres have been re-sold to fresh purchasers; the net forfeitures for non-payment of instalments during the past five years are, therefore, only 156 acres, or less than 1 per cent. of the lands allotted. These facts show that this method of selling land to purchasers is much more suitable to the character of the general population than the rental of small predial tenancies. The experience of the Department indicates that it would be well to do away with the renting of

land altogether and to substitute purchase in fee simple, the purchase money being payable by instalments. There is a good deal of trouble to get the purchasers to pay their instalments, most of them delaying payment to the point of forfeiture, but, on the other hand, many tenants do not pay at all, and it is impossible to recover the rent in any way.

Improvements of Lands Granted (Road Question).

145. Reports that have been received from the several bailiffs and observations by the surveyors show that progress is being made in the cultivation and settlement of the lands purchased; some of the lands that were sold five years ago have undergone great improvement in the building of houses and of cultivation. On other lands, again, little or nothing has been done. On all sides, however, it is represented that if roads were provided more would be done. These demands are receiving attention, and facilities of access will be improved as circumstances warrant. Owing, however, both to the necessity for economy in expenditure and also to certain conclusions of policy arrived at by the Governor in Privy Council, some check has been put on the alienation of Crown Lands in remote districts and the construction of roads to approach them. There can be no doubt that the mileage of roads already open in the Island is very large as compared with the area alienated from the Crown and cultivated. Including railways and main and parochial roads there are open to traffic in the Island 6,540 miles of road, and as there are 1,967,684 acres alienated and tax paid according to the Collector-General's returns, this gives an average of one mile of road to each 300 acres of alienated land. But of this, no less than 1,273,106 acres is in wood and ruin, mostly uselessly and unproductively held, and contributing very little to the exportable produce of the Island. Of the alienated acreage, 694,580 acres are returned as in cultivation and pasture, and this gives an average of 105 acres to each mile of road. Omitting the pasture, the land in cultivation is returned at only 177,664 acres, which gives the surprisingly low average of only 27 acres of cultivation to each mile of road. These figures show that too large an area is unproductively held in proportion to the mileage of roads open, a fact that is obvious to anyone who travels in the Island. The low taxation on land that has hitherto ruled, and the readiness with which grants of land were made, by the Crown in past years on condition of payment of only one penny per acre quit rent has been a direct inducement to the population to spread itself over the land unproductively. The result has been that the more land that was taken up in past years the more roads have had to be made to give access to such land, until at last in some parishes the funds available for maintenance of roads are quite insufficient for the purpose, and much of the land already taken up is held so unproductively that it can yield little more in taxation to maintain them. The produc-

tion, therefore, from the small area of cultivated land is burdened with maintaining means of access to lands unproductively held.

146. Concentration would remedy this, and concentration could be accomplished by utilizing the areas already secured by roads and unproductively held for the settlement of the population before opening up fresh areas and making more roads.

147. The policy has accordingly been adopted of completing means of access to Crown lands already alienated, to which roads have been promised, before making roads elsewhere, and henceforward not to open Crown lands to settlement in remote and inaccessible districts so long as there are unalienated Crown lands fit for settlement to which special roads have already been made or promised or which are already accessible from old public roads. The propensity of settlers to flock to new lands is bound up with the wasteful and disastrous traditional methods of crop-growing which it is one of the most pressing interests of the Government to supersede by intelligent agriculture. The new districts are sought because there is old woodland to burn, and when their fertility is exhausted their occupiers are worse off because further from centres of civilisation, education and employment than they would be if they had taken up lands in old settled districts and cultivated them in a proper and permanent manner.

Lands Forfeited.

148. Lands to the extent of 7,347 acres have been forfeited to the Crown for non-payment of taxes during the past year, and 128,000 acres have been forfeited since 1894. This forfeiture of land is undoubtedly the most important and complicated work of the Lands Department, and gives the greatest amount of trouble and takes up the most time. To appreciate the position, it must be borne in mind that up to about 1820, nearly the whole Island had been granted out by Patent from the Crown subject only to payment of one penny per acre per annum quit rent. On the decline in the prosperity of the Island numbers of owners went away or died, or abandoned or sold their lands, and in process of time numerous small holders got into possession either by purchase or by squatting, sometimes paying quit rents on portions of lands they were in possession of and sometimes not paying at all. On much of the lands that have been forfeited, or are being forfeited, or are to be forfeited to the Crown, there are numbers of these small holders, each one claiming and occupying two or three times as much land as he pays taxes on and in many cases not paying taxes at all. The claims are so complicated, and the possession so irregular, that much care and patience must be taken in dealing with these cases. Moreover, to effectively settle these cases, careful surveys are absolutely necessary to define the limits of the land tax-paid and belonging to holders, and the lands not paid on and forfeitable to the Crown. Without

survey work to actually mark off on the ground the lands vested in the Crown, forfeiture proceedings would be an utter waste of time and mere paper work. A very troublesome case in point was dealt with in Point Hill in St. Catherine in the year just closed. This is a property of 1,100 acres, of which only 500 acres was tax-paid. Yet the whole 1,100 acres was in possession of different parties and only a survey could disclose the limits of the lands tax-paid and non-tax-paid, and considerable difficulty was experienced in the work and much care and patience expended in it.

149. Much has been done in the past few years in this direction of defining the limits of forfeited lands, but a great deal more remains to be done which can only be accomplished by steady Survey work for years to come. It will undoubtedly pay well in the end as all these lands will, in time to come, as the population increases, be a valuable asset of the Government. To allow these lands to remain as they are would be bad both for the lands and the people occupying them.

Leases.

150. During the past year 58 leases have been effected at a rental of £447. The most important leases are those of the right to cut certain marketable woods on the Healthshire lands and Portland Ridge. Most of the other leases are of lands at Admiral's Pen, near Kingston, where quite a small township is now springing up, several neat cottages having been erected by the lessees. At this place and the North-West of Kingston, there are nearly 300 leases of town lots from the Government. As to the predial tenants holding small parcels of land in yearly tenancies subject to three months' notice, there are about 1,500 of these owing an average rent of 12s. per acre per annum. It follows, therefore, that they should have paid about £900 of rent. Less, however, than £600 was collected. It was found impossible to collect the rest in spite of the issue of some 200 levy warrants. In many cases it is impossible to collect the rent in any way. No rent is paid and there is nothing to levy on. The renting of land to small yearly tenants is in every way most unsatisfactory.

Expenditure and Receipts.

151. The total expenditure of the Department was £3,337 15s. 2d., including £737 19s. 3d. spent in construction of roads to Crown lands.

The receipts for the year from sales and rents were £3,183 19s. 4d.

(D.) MINES, MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

No Mines.

152. It has been customary to include in the Annual Reports on the Blue Book a section reporting on mines, manufactures

and fisheries. The fact is, however, that Jamaica is not a mining or manufacturing country and does not supply the demand of its own consumers of fish. Such factories as exist are occupied for the most part with the preparation in bulk of agricultural products for export, sugar, rum, coffee, cocoa, logwood extract, leather, cigars and cigarettes, and a little cocoanut oil.

Sugar Factories.

153. The principal manufacturing industry, that of sugar and rum has long been suffering from the effects of the European bounty system, which has practically excluded Jamaican sugar from the British market. The countervailing duties imposed by the United States of America have, however, preserved that market to our exporters. I have commented above on the enormous drop in price that has occurred during the last two years in consequence of fiscal efforts of European beet growers to make the most of the bounty system whilst it should last. Notwithstanding this discouragement, the remaining sugar estates of Jamaica have held their own with remarkable determination and enterprise. They have the advantages of soils and seasons very favourable to the growth of the cane; so much so, that there is no part of the West Indies where sugar cane can be grown at a less expense than in parts of Jamaica. They have also the advantage of a good name and price for their rums, and they convert a larger proportion of the total yield of their canes into rum and less into sugar than is the rule on the estates of other West Indian Colonies. There has been a good deal of improvement of late in the machinery of sugar works, and had it not been for the sudden and crippling fall in prices there would have been considerably more, while the acreage returned as in cultivation in sugar cane increased from 25,616 acres in 1900-1901 to 26,535 in 1901-1902.

Rum Surtax.

154. The long-standing grievance of West Indian producers of rum in regard to the surtax of fourpence per gallon (in excess of the Internal Excise Duty) imposed on spirits imported into the United Kingdom has during the year been receiving the attention of the Imperial Government. The West Indian Royal Commissioners of 1897, in the course of their report on the condition and prospects of the sugar industry expressed their opinion that this surtax was an anomalous and unfair protective import duty and a grievance to the West Indian rum distillers, for which a remedy or compensation should be sought. I have mentioned that His Majesty's Government, with a view to ascertaining the conditions by which any attempt in this direction must proceed have in the course of this spring deputed Mr. John Steele, C.B., late of the British Inland Revenue Department, to visit the West Indies and examine the methods and processes

of rum-distillery and the character of the excise restrictions established in these Islands. Mr. Steele's report will be awaited with interest, not only in connection with the fiscal controversy out of which the mission arose, but also as a commentary on the methods of distilleries in this Island.

Rum Distillation.

155. In this connection I think it of interest to quote the following observations from a report addressed to the Government by Mr. H. H. Cousins, the Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist.

"So long as a puncheon of Jamaica rum exceeds, equals, or even approximates in value to a ton of sugar, individual estates in Jamaica would be quite justified in adhering to their own manufactures rather than grow canes for a central factory. Improved milling and good still-house management should keep the present type of sugar estate in a sound position industrially.

"The records of still-houses in the Island show great variations in the yield as well as in the quality of the rum from apparently identical materials. I estimate from personal observations that an increased yield of fully twenty-five per cent. should be reasonably expected from intelligent and accurate control of the preliminary fermentation in the manufacture of common and medium quality rums. Mr. H. and others who have to do exclusively with the flavoured rums for the German market state that enormous sums are annually lost through defective still-house management in this branch of the industry.

"Although essentially an empirical process there is no reasonable doubt that chemical and mycological control could establish certain crucial data for securing reasonable certainty and uniformity in the manufacture of 'German' rum. Should the flavoured rum industry succumb to the insidious competition of the German Compound-ether-specialist, the only hope for Trelawny would be a revival of high-class drinking rums and an organised campaign to protect the trade mark 'Jamaica rum' in the home market."

156. In correspondence arising out of the report of the Government chemist from which the foregoing extracts are taken, I have recommended that a chemist specially qualified and experienced in the study of fermentation should be engaged by this Government to assist in the study and improvement of local processes of rum manufacture.

Commercial Agency.

157. Proposals have also been submitted to you with a view to the appointment of a special agency to protect the commercial interests of the Island in the manner suggested.

(E.) AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES.

Sugar Industry.

158. The growing of sugar cane, with its attendant industries of stock-keeping and estate maintenance, and its subsidiary industries of cattle and mule breeding is the most important and developed branch of agriculture subsisting in the Island. Though the value of fruit exported now far exceeds that of sugar and rum, the agriculture of the fruit industry and of the bulk of the small cultivation of other exports is elementary, undeveloped, or indeed positively retrogressive. The decay and extinction of the sugar industry in certain districts has so impaired all conceptions of agriculture, that the community has an immense task before it to establish and re-create the art in regard to the products that must take the place of sugar and rum if our exports are to be steadily maintained.

Old Agriculture.

159. The old agriculture of the Island may be said to have consisted of—

(1.) The agriculture of the sugar industry, with the largely subsidiary industry of pen-keeping.

(2.) The agriculture of the coffee industry and

(3.) The agriculture of the provision ground.

Most of the land-owners had also sources of income in their crops of pimento, logwood, or oranges, but these were all wild products, and the pimento and orange trees suffer rather than profit from such operations as are performed on them under traditional methods.

160. The agriculture of the coffee industry may be distinguished in to that of the large high-mountain and other estates, manufacturing high-priced coffee, and that of the small land-owners, producing low-priced "settlers' coffee."

Coffee.

161. Coffee generally has suffered heavily from low prices and many estates have gone out of cultivation, but the decline of the settlers' coffee production has been the most serious loss to the peasantry. Their agriculture was never what it might have been and has been in general deteriorating for many years past, and their curing processes were always primitive. The fall of prices has discouraged them from maintaining such agriculture as they had, and very many have ceased to attempt to cure their coffee in even their old unsatisfactory method. I have already referred to this state of things in dealing with the coffee export.

Provision Grounds (Fire-Stick Cultivation).

162. The agriculture of the provision ground is an art developed by the negroes in slavery time and brought within the

limits of its principles to a high level of successful result. But its principles are destructive and disastrous, being based upon the talisman of the fire stick. Moreover, it has always suffered from the blight of the inevitable "prædial larceny." It demands new ground, with forest growth to burn on it, remote from the haunts of pilferers. When the fertility of the accumulations of humus and the stimulus of the ashes of burnt bush are exhausted (in two or three years) new ground has to be sought.

163. There was and could be no stock-keeping in this system of cultivation. The provision grounds were remote from the house, hence stock could not be watched. The land therefore got no manure and the children of the labourer no milk. The foundation and type of the system was the slaves' provision ground on the back land or "mountain" of the estate where he lived and worked.

164. Jamaica is an Island where the evils of hunger and cold are seldom if ever pressing. Even in towns no one, except poor respectable white and coloured people, starve. If anyone in the country is ashamed to beg, he is not probably ashamed to steal, and food can always be stolen. A tolerably comfortable community might conceivably be maintained here with very little foreign trade. Money prices and wages could be nominal, and the clergy and professional classes would have to be paid in kind and in services. But if the population is to have clothes and hardware, education, police, law courts, and a public medical service it must not only be able to turn some of its products into money, but it must import commodities, and therefore, as its needs of this character increase, it must maintain and increase its exports. When sugar was failing, Jamaica had fortunately a stand-by in logwood, pimento and oranges, it also had its coffee, and certain minor products such as ginger and annatto. The great substitute for the sugar export, that of bananas, has only developed largely in a few parishes. The banana could no more take the place of sugar in certain districts than sugar could regain its former position. There is only a small proportion of the Island whose soil and climate promise it a permanent future. There is only a small proportion in which even central sugar factories could maintain the sugar industry. The agriculture of the banana, at first experimental, has had to be discovered, and is still being developed in large estates. Some capital is required, and the more we adopt bananas as a permanent staple crop the more will a proper system of agriculture needing capital be recognised as essential. It is fortunate that the planting of bananas, combined with that of cocoa and with attention to other staples hitherto classed as "minor products" offers an opening for the development of a class of small farmers with moderate capital but operating in a larger and more intelligent method than the "small settlers," that neither sugar planting nor pen-keeping

afforded. Cane farming as a source of supply to central factories may possibly in the future afford another opening to agriculturists of this class.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

Jamaica Agricultural Society.

165. The Government and the Jamaica Agricultural Society, an invaluable organisation founded in 1895 largely through the influence of Governor Sir Henry Blake, have during recent years been working in many directions to promote the evolution of the agriculture essential to the changed conditions of the Island. The amount of organisation effected has been very considerable, and although little effect on the wealth of the country could be expected to have been produced within the period, some results are beginning to be noticeable.

166. The Agricultural Society consists of the society proper with a large representative Board of Management, sub-committees for special purposes and a number of affiliated branch societies in different districts. The society receives an annual grant from General Revenue which has recently been at the rate of £1,200. It publishes a most useful and practical monthly journal which reaches every member of the society and its branches. On the public establishment of the Island there are four Departments concerned in a greater or less degree in promoting the interests of agriculture, the Department of Public Gardens and Plantations, the Department of the Island and Agricultural Chemist, the Education Department, and the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, which furnishes an Agricultural Lecturer subordinate to the Commissioner of the Department (Dr. D. Morris, C.M.G.) whose office is at Barbados.

Board of Agriculture.

167. The work of these four agencies in agricultural matters is co-ordinated and controlled by the Board of Agriculture, of which, as Colonial Secretary, I have had the honour from its establishment to be Chairman. The Board includes, *ex officio*, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, who, however, can but rarely take part in the proceedings, the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations and the Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist, together with four members nominated by the Governor (including the Archbishop of the West Indies, who is Chairman of the Jamaica Schools Commission), and two appointed by him on the nomination of the Agricultural Society.

The Secretary of the Board is the Lecturer in Agriculture of the Imperial Department. There is thus close co-operation and adjustment of effort between the different public departments

concerned, and the co-operation with the Agricultural Society is strengthened by the Director of Public Gardens being the Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Management of that society and Chairman of all its special committees. All the members of the Board of Agriculture, moreover, are as it happens also members of the Board of Management of the society. This compound organisation attacks the task of maintaining by scientific development the old staple agricultural and pastoral industries of the Island, introducing new industries and revolutionising the small agriculture of the peasantry.

Work of Experiment Station (Sugar Cultivation).

168. To assist the sugar industry the Board of Agriculture, through the committee of its experiment station at Hope Gardens, which also supervises experimental work on estates throughout the Island, arranges and has conducted in the past year field trials of fertilisers and methods of cultivation of sugar cane, soil analyses and surveys, comparative field trials of seedling varietal canes and the raising of new canes from seed. It is hoped, as I have already explained, that it may be able as the result of observations made last year also to render valuable assistance to the distillery branch of the same industry.

Other Crops.

169. In the same direction of effort manurial experiments were conducted on estates with bananas, pines, coffee and tobacco. The general plans and management of these experiments were carried out by the staff of the laboratory; the plots were visited and supervised by the Agricultural Instructor of the Government in the course of his lecturing tours. About 18 tons of artificial manures were obtained and distributed by the Chemists' Department at a cost of from £2 to £4 per ton less than that quoted by a local firm for mixed fertilisers.

170. The Agricultural Society has always devoted special attention to the maintenance and improvement by importations of the quality of stock in the Island, especially of horse kind, pigs, goats, ducks and poultry. It has continuously endeavoured to promote and to assist to success the local Agricultural Shows of branch societies, at which the exhibition for prizes of minor products is always a leading feature. The society during the year under review has employed two agricultural instructors, one in Manchester and one in St. Ann, especially with a view of reviving the settlers' coffee industry in those districts; but also in furtherance of the more general purpose I have referred to of revolutionising the peasant agriculture of the Island. These instructors are directly superintended by the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations. The Government has also (under the Board of Agriculture) one agricultural instructor

who gives lectures, or rather practical demonstrations, in all parts of the Island, and a second officer (the Superintendent of Castleton Gardens), part of whose time has now been assigned to this same kind of work.

Agricultural Revolution Aimed at.

171. The revolution of small agriculture that is aimed at involves the abandonment of fire-stick cultivation, the abandonment of the nomadic renting and devastation of new ground, the attaching of cultivation to the house spot or accessible centres, where the children of the household can both learn how to make themselves useful and do so, the fencing of grounds, the respect for ownership, the keeping, folding, penning and stabling of stock both as a source of food and profit and for manure, the proper cultivation and pruning of coffee, cocoa, oranges and similar permanent crops, and the proper picking, curing and preparing them so as to fetch better prices than they do now; the demonstration that with proper care ground provisions can be grown as well in the settlement and at the homestead as on new ground in the mountains and at much less cost of labour and time.

Prizes for Holdings.

172. In order to promote this revolution the Agricultural Society, through its local instructors co-operating with the Government Agricultural Instructor, has offered prizes for competition in selected districts to be awarded (under three classes) to the best settlers' holdings, regard being had to the quality and appearance of the house, the cultivation, and the stock. This competition has aroused great interest in the districts affected and has been successful beyond expectation.

Educational Methods (Training of Teachers).

173. In pursuance of the same purpose, the new Education Code provides, as reported last year, for agricultural instruction in elementary schools. To qualify the elementary school teachers to give such instruction is the chief duty of the Agricultural Lecturer of the Imperial Department, the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, who gives courses of lectures at the Training Colleges and occasionally to teachers at various centres about the country. Unfortunately, at present, the Inspectors of Schools have no special knowledge of the subject and cannot give as much guidance as is desirable to the teachers. The third year students at the Mico Training College attend at Hope Gardens every Saturday for lessons and lectures in agriculture and horticulture. Two batches of elementary school teachers received a month's course of agricultural training, both

practical and theoretical, one batch of 60 at Hope Gardens in July and another of 18 at Bethlehem in September. Those who attended at the former were boarded at the Mico Training College and supervised by the Superintendent of that Institution. A feature of this course was the giving of a series of afternoon lectures to the teachers by planters and other qualified persons on irrigation, bee-keeping, geology, the preparation of produce, botany, small stock, poultry, water, grape vines, insect pests, the teaching of elementary science, and "How to make small holdings pay without borrowing capital."

Apprentices.

174. Apprentices are attached to Hope Gardens for training in agriculture and the handling of fruit trees, tobacco, &c.

Instructors.

175. The scope of the activities of the agricultural instructor and its close connection with that of the agricultural societies is indicated by his report of his work for the year. Lectures and demonstrations were given in all the parishes of the Island except Portland, which had been visited just before the year began. The subjects treated of included cocoa, coffee, citrus fruit, kola, cocoanut, logwood, grapes, sugar cane, bananas, ground provisions, vegetables, tobacco, ploughing, forking, trenching, draining, subsoiling, manuring, mulching, liming, budding, grafting, propagation by cuttings, circumposition, layering, and other methods of propagation. The instructor enquired into and reported on diseases of logwood, cocoanuts, cocoa, coffee, and citrus plants; he assisted in arranging and judging at nine Agricultural Shows and in the formation of six new branch agricultural societies. He reports that his lectures and demonstrations were as a rule well attended, the best and most intelligent audiences being found in districts where the small peasant-owner predominates. The increase in Agricultural shows and the interest taken in them is marked and entirely satisfactory, but progress in the quality of the exhibits is not so marked. Great progress has been made with the curing of cocoa, less (for want of machinery) with that of coffee. With regard to citrus fruits, he is of opinion that the imported varieties are on the whole no improvement on those already native to the Island. His investigations of the cocoanut result in the distinction of at least five well-defined varieties, of which seeds have been planted at Hope Gardens with a view to ascertaining whether they hold their type or vary, and to improvement by selection. The grape industry offers promise and should be developed with profit to meet the demands of the tourist season. With this object vines will be pruned so as to make them bear in February. He has interesting observations to make of the effect of the wet autumn on the banana crop and the need for deep drainage and tillage.

176. The Superintendent of Castleton Gardens has also done useful work in the districts accessible from the Gardens.

Hope Experiment Station.

177. At the Hope Gardens the work of the experiment station presided over by the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations in concert with the Island chemist, was carried on under the general scheme adopted by the Board of Agriculture, which may be shortly summarised as follows:—

I. To provide opportunities for the study of the staple crops of the Island, the conditions under which they are grown, the results obtained by different methods of cultivation, manuring, and by the introduction of new varieties, the monetary value of such methods or varieties, the diseases and pests attacking them, the methods of preparing the products for the market, and the management of farm animals.

II. To give information on all such matters by publication of leaflets and bulletins, by instruction to boys in High Schools, boys from Elementary and Industrial Schools, apprentices, students in the Training Colleges, elementary school teachers, and generally by conferences amongst planters and pen-keepers.

178. At the Hope Experiment Station it was decided to deal with the following plants in the manner indicated:—

(a.) *Sugar Cane*.—To grow 12 stools of each variety, planting in the spring and again in the autumn for the purpose of having them tested by the chemist;

To raise seedlings from the canes grown at Hope, and to cultivate for trial the best varieties from elsewhere.

(b.) *Tobacco*.—To grow 4 acres and to cure it.

(c.) *Cocoa*.—To plant out an acre for the purpose of studying close and wide planting, the value of shade, pruning, manures, and different varieties.

(d.) *Bananas*.—To form a collection of varieties, to study the plant in its growth, and, if possible, to raise new varieties.

(e.) *Coffee*.—To compare the products of different varieties.

(f.) *Pine-apples*.—To form a collection of varieties and to raise new varieties.

(g.) *Citrus Plants*.—To form a collection of various stocks.

(h.) *Nutmeg, Rubber*, and other economic plants; methods of grafting and other problems.

Citrus Fruit Conference.

179. A conference of two days' duration was held for the discussion of the interests of the citrus fruit industry, resulting

in the drafting of a Bill for the regulation of the fruit trade. The Bill was introduced in the 1902 Session of the Legislative Council, but had not been carried through all its stages when the Council adjourned. Papers were also read at the Conference dealing with methods of cultivation, varieties, insect pests, and were published in the bulletin of the Department of Public Gardens and Plantations.

Botanic and Ornamental Gardens.

180. The work of the Department other than that devoted to the Hope Experiment Station is indicated in the following notes.

181. At Hope 25½ acres of ornamental grounds were maintained with plant houses, orchids, ferns, and other delicate plants. 90,722 plants were distributed; 65,708 economic and 15,438 ornamental sold, and 9,576 given away.

182. The Herbarium was maintained and added to.

183. The Hill Garden at Bell Vue (Cinchona) in the Blue Mountains was kept in order.

184. The orange trees at Resource (near Cinchona) were maintained; but this garden is not now cultivated, all the varieties having been brought down to Hope Gardens for propagation. Castleton Gardens have been maintained in good order at a reduced expenditure, as has also the Parade Gardens at Kingston. These gardens are of purely ornamental and botanic interest.

Barbados Agricultural Conference.

185. The Chairman of the Board of Agriculture, the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, Mr. J. Shore, on behalf of the Agricultural Society, Mr. McFarlane, Superintendent of the Mico Training College, the Reverend W. Simms, Principal of the Jamaica College at Hope, and Mr. W. Buttenshaw, Lecturer in Agriculture, attended and took part in the Agricultural Conference held at Barbados in January, 1902, in connection with the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Agricultural Education at the Laboratory.

186. Towards the close of the year a scheme was drawn up on the initiation of the Island chemist for giving at the Laboratory and Hope Gardens a thorough system of scientific and practical training in agriculture. This scheme will, it is hoped, be brought into operation in the autumn of 1902.

General Position.

187. Taking into consideration the organised work reviewed in the foregoing survey, together with the arrangements for manual training which will be described in the section of this

Report dealing with Elementary Education, I think it may be claimed that this Island is, on the whole, well in advance of any other West Indian Colony, if not of any other British Colony not having responsible Government, in the extent and activity of its public organisation for the promotion of agricultural knowledge. Nor has the activity developed within recent years been devoid of effect. In all parts of the Island there is an awakened and increasing interest in and desire for information on agricultural questions concurrent with a remarkable and steady increase of cultivation and, to some extent, an improvement of methods. The harvest from this development has been delayed by unfavourable seasons and low prices; but the year under review was on the whole a year of abundant yield, and this current year promises to be even better. A few favourable years will immensely strengthen the progress of agricultural improvement by demonstrating its pecuniary value.

III—LEGISLATION.

188. Table IX. is a Schedule of the Laws, twenty-five in number, of the Session of 1901, assented to or reserved by the Governor for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure.

189. Of these the following may be considered to deserve special notice:—

Fiscal.

190. Law 6.—The Quit Rents and Produce Protection Duties Appropriation Law.

Law 9.—A Law to impose additional taxation on lands in aid of General Revenue.

Law 12.—The Match Excise Duty Law.

Law 25.—The Stamp Duty Laws Amendment Law.

These four laws were fiscal measures in aid of General Revenue, and their effect has already been referred to in my comments on the finances of the year.

Reformatory.

191. Law 13.—The Reformatories and Industrial Schools Law, Amendment Law, gave the superintendents of such schools a certain power of tutelage and control over children discharged from such schools until they reach eighteen years of age.

Police.

192. Law 15.—The Produce Protection Laws, Amendment Law, and

Law 21.—A Law in aid of the Laws relating to Prædial Larceny, were, together with a Bill to amend the Vagrancy

Law which was drafted for the approval of the Secretary of State before introduction, designed to mitigate the prevalent curse of the thieving of growing produce which so gravely impedes the agricultural progress of the Island.

193. Law 15 revised the conditions for the licensing of persons to buy and sell agricultural produce, with a view to improving police control.

Praedial Larceny Bill.

194. Law 21 was a more controversial measure and met with considerable opposition in its passage through the Legislative Council. It provided that whenever any person should be found in possession of any article of agricultural produce of certain specified kinds under such circumstances as should cause any police officer, or constable, district constable, or other person properly authorised to act under the provisions of the Law, to suspect that such article had been stolen or had been received with knowledge that it had been stolen or had been in any other way dishonestly come by, it should be lawful for such constable or authorised person to arrest the suspected person without a warrant and to take him, with the suspected article, before a Justice of the Peace or a Clerk of the Courts; and that if, after enquiry, the Justice of the Peace or the Clerk of the Courts should be of opinion that the suspected person did not give a satisfactory account of the manner in which he had become possessed of the article, such person might be detained in custody or bound over to appear before the Resident Magistrate at his next convenient sitting:

That on the trial of such person before a Resident Magistrate the burden of proving that he became honestly possessed of the article suspected to have been stolen should be upon the person himself, and that if he should fail to satisfy the Resident Magistrate that his possession of the article was honest, it should be deemed *prima facie* evidence of his guilt, and the Resident Magistrate might convict him of being unlawfully in possession of the article:

That any person so convicted might be sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a period not exceeding six months, and upon any subsequent conviction for a period not exceeding twelve months: that any convicted person might, on a first conviction, be sentenced to be whipped, with a number of strokes not exceeding twenty-four, and that upon any subsequent conviction within three years of the first offence it should be obligatory on the Resident Magistrate to order the convicted person to be so whipped.

195. This Law was disallowed by His Majesty on the advice of the Secretary of State.

Parochial.

196. Law 17.—“The Parochial Boards Laws Consolidation Law, 1901,” was a useful measure, embodying the effect of recent reforms, and superseding nine laws previously in force or partially so, but introducing no innovations of any importance.

Agricultural.

197. Law 18.—“A Law to regulate the sale of Agricultural Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs,” provided for the protection of buyers of chemical manures and prepared foods for cattle, by requiring the composition of such substances to be certified by the Island chemist.

LAW 22. THE VALUATION LAW.

Defects of Present Property Taxes.

198. I have detailed above the somewhat bewildering series of small incoherent imposts out of which the present taxation on real property in this Island is built up.

Contemplated Reforms.

199. It has for many years been generally recognised that the established system of land and house taxes was unsatisfactory, and repeated proposals have been made, after careful consideration, for its improvement. These proposals have generally advocated the fair application of the principle of an assessment on the value of real property, and, as the indispensable foundation for such assessment, the making of a cadastral survey of the Island and the establishment of a valuation roll of properties have been contemplated. The project for a cadastral survey, which was provided for by Law 8 of 1891, was abandoned in consequence of the opposition of land-owners, ostensibly on the plea of expense, and the difficulty of the anticipated expense had hitherto stood in the way of any formulation of proposals for an assessment without survey. Moreover, it had been recognised that any projects that might be set on foot for reforming these taxes would certainly provoke opposition from those whose taxation was likely to be thereby increased, and that such opposition, accompanied as it was sure to be by misrepresentations and misunderstandings which would create unrest and suspicion among the mass of the simple-minded and ignorant peasantry, would make any such reform a matter of practical difficulty out of all proportion to the legitimate objections to which it might give rise and to which any scheme must be expected to be open.

200. I have also detailed how the rates of the House Tax in most of the parishes had increased in recent years until, combined with the School and Holdings Taxes, it became a sensible burden on the poorest class. Remissions of taxes and arrears in collection began to assume serious proportions, with the effect of making heavier the burden on those who continued to pay during a period of increasing depression. At the same time the financial position of the Government was creating a demand for increased taxation of land, to be levied on a fairer principle than that of the Quit Rent and the Holding and Property Taxes; and this demand was made the more pressing and reasonable by the assumption by the Colonial Government of the burden of the Railway Debt and of the subsidy to the Imperial Direct Line.

201. Sir David Barbour, in his report on the finances of Jamaica made in 1899, recommended that the long ventilated reform of the Land and House Taxes should be carried into effect without further delay. Later in the same year, a committee, specially appointed, reported proposals for effecting this, viz., that a Real Property Tax should be assessed on the capital value of all real property in supersession of all the then existing taxes except the Quit Rent. The principle of this proposal was approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in a despatch of the 20th February, 1900.

202. For reasons of which the two principal were that the Government had no data to work upon, and that in view of the political situation (all the elected members being absent from the Council) it was advisable to defer any attempt to recast so important a branch of the fiscal system, no action was taken in regard to this matter during the Session of 1900-1901. In the Session of 1901 two laws were passed, namely, Law 9, the temporary law above-mentioned to impose additional taxation on land in aid of General Revenue, and Law 22, a Valuation Law, to provide a basis for a permanent means of reform.

203. This law provided for the preparation of a Valuation Roll for the whole Island to show the value of all holdings of real property in each parish under three assessments, viz. :—

- (1) The actual gross present value of the real property;
- (2) The actual or presumable nett annual rental value of the real property; and
- (3) The presumable nett value of the ground forming the site of the real property in a natural and unimproved condition in its present surroundings.

A Valuation Commissioner was appointed to direct, supervise and bring to completion the preparation of the Valuation Roll.

204. Every person in the possession of real property was required to make an ingiving of the value of his holding to the Collector of Taxes for his parish. If the Collector accepted the

valuation given in, it was entered on the roll; if he did not accept it and an agreement could not be come to, the value was to be finally settled by a Resident Magistrate. If no ingiving should be made, the Collector was to assess the value of the property, and in case of dispute the value was to be settled by the Resident Magistrate.

Results of Valuation.

205. The work of valuation imposed an immense amount of labour upon the Supervisor of Revenue Offices who was appointed to be the Valuation Commissioner, and upon the officers of the Collectorates, without any extra remuneration, and the work was most energetically and creditably carried out. The extent of the work may be estimated by the fact that no less than 121,756 separate holdings of real property in the country parishes and 8,335 in Kingston and Port Royal have been assessed and entered on the roll. The total values recorded are:—

				Gross Value.	Rental Value.	Unimproved Value
				£	£	£
Kingston and Port Royal	...			1,571,223	104,191	440,336
Country parishes	...	...	...	7,450,007	769,584	2,546,056

206. In reporting on the valuation, the Commissioner records his conclusion that with some few exceptions the larger properties have been fairly and equitably valued when it is remembered that the valuation has been made at a time of extreme depression; that the general tendency has been to under-estimate the gross value of small holdings, but that he does not think there is any reason to doubt that taking it as a whole the valuation may be relied on as furnishing the basis of a more equitable adjustment of taxation, if it is admitted that the principle of taxation according to value effects that end. He adds "Traversing the criticisms that have from time to time been directed at the valuation, I beg to say that in my opinion, and, considering the time and machinery at my disposal, the work has been as satisfactorily done as could have been anticipated; that cases of absurd over-valuation have been few, and these have been, or will be, in the ordinary course remedied; that cases of serious under-valuation have come under notice, but these, mostly by judicious correspondence, but in a few cases by adjudication by the Resident Magistrate, have been brought approximately in line with a fair standard; that difficulties have arisen by mixing up questions of the values of personal property with real property, but that the claims put forward that maturing crops of produce have been deliberately added to, and included with, the values of real property are untenable."

207. On the whole, I think it probable that the valuations do not represent the full value of the properties, but that the discount is general and fairly uniform, great care having been devoted by the Valuation Commissioner and his officers to preventing anomalies, so that as between one property and another the roll may be regarded as affording a satisfactory foundation for the assessment of rates on values.

208. The returns of valuation were not completed early enough to allow legislation on their basis to be brought to perfection in the Session of this spring, and the increased rates of Holdings Tax imposed in the Session of 1901 were re-enacted for one year by a law passed in April, 1902.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Year.	Schools on Annual Grant List.	Schools Inspected.	Scholars on Books.	Average Attendance from Monthly Returns.	Percentage in Average Attendance of number on Books.	First Class Schools.	Second Class Schools.	Third Class Schools.	Total Payments to Elementary Schools and Teachers.
1899-00	746	776	98,598	51,470	62.08	187	357	219	£ 47,240
1900-01	735	717	88,625	47,441	58.99	202	329	183	42,482
1901-02	728	726	84,799	46,277	61.51	189	341	183	42,936

Diminution in Number of Schools and Attendance.

210. The table given above shows a continuance in the reduction of the number of Elementary Schools entitled to annual grants in pursuance of the policy of closing or amalgamating with other inefficient or superfluous schools. There is an accompanying reduction in the number of scholars on the books and in average attendance according to the monthly returns. The

falling off in the average attendance for the whole year is attributed, I think, to the following causes, namely—

- (1) The closing of a certain number of schools;
- (2) Want of means in the parents to provide clothing;
- (3) The exceptional amount of rain and the number of rainy days between June 1st and December 31st, 1901, and
- (4) The absence of compulsion or other effectual incentive to attendance.

Explanation.

211. With regard to (1) it may be explained that with a view to effecting economy and efficiency the number of Elementary Schools on the books of the Education Department has been reduced in the course of the last three years from 893 to 728, or by 18 per cent.; the schools struck off having either disappeared altogether or having been amalgamated with those of other denominations as Government or Undenominational Schools. On the 31st of March there were on the books of the Department 27 Government Schools and 35 (so-called) Undenominational Schools, the latter being schools which, whilst not classed as Government Schools, were under the management of Boards on which were ministers belonging to more than one religious denomination. There were 664 Denominational Schools. Notwithstanding these reductions, the Superintending Inspector of Schools in his report for the year expresses the view that, if it be not unreasonable to expect a few children to walk three or four miles in the cool of the morning and evening, the supply of public Elementary Schools approximates very closely to the present effective demand.

212. There can be no doubt that exclusive connection with a specific religious organisation conduces to the attendance at its Denominational School of the children of that congregation and of the immediate neighbourhood of the church or chapel, and that the influences which promote school attendance as a method of recruiting for the church congregation or as part of a corporate duty and a matter of sectional pride on the part of the parents are much weakened when the school is amalgamated, whether into a Government School or into a Voluntary School under joint management with that of other denominations. This has, I believe, been one reason why attendance has—unnecessarily and perhaps unreasonably—been temporarily impaired by amalgamation. So long as no Voluntary Schools are kept on the books that are not giving value for their money it does not appear that either frequency of attendance or financial economy are likely to be promoted by any extensive further conversion of Voluntary Schools into Government Schools.

213. Moreover, having in view the difficulty of resuscitating Voluntary Schools once closed and the higher comparative cost

that would be involved in establishing a new Government School when the need of the locality might again demand it, the Board of Education and the Government have been disposed to give grace to certain Voluntary Schools on the borderland of sufficient efficiency, and not to be hasty in closing them.

214. (2) Want of money for clothing has, in some districts especially, had some effect on the willingness of parents to send their children to school, but this cause was towards the end of the year losing in force. I have already referred to the increase in the importation of clothing materials towards the end of the year, showing increased purchasing power and disposition to purchase the requisites of school attendance. During the first three months of 1902 the attendance improved, probably owing both to better circumstances and to better weather. The average attendance in January, February and March was 55,347 against 54,347 in the corresponding three months of 1901, and 46,277 for the whole year, and the improvement on the monthly advances of 1901-1902 has continued in an even more marked degree since the close of that year.

Unpunctuality a Serious Evil.

215. The Superintending Inspector of Schools reports that "one of the most crying evils in our Elementary Schools is the fact that work is never, or hardly ever, really begun at the time fixed in the time-table. Very frequently the teacher is not there, and no attempt appears to be made to get the scholars in before the time fixed for roll call. In the neighbourhood of nearly every school in the Island groups of children may be seen, from half to three-quarters of an hour after the time fixed for the commencement of school, standing loafing about the roads. There are of course honourable exceptions, but unless the teachers of the Island as a body bestir themselves and put an end to this discreditable state of things the drastic remedy will have to be resorted to of requiring the roll to be called at the time fixed for the opening of school. The result would certainly be a great reduction in the average attendance, probably widespread evasion of the regulation, and many fines and other penalties, but unless there is some general improvement, such a regulation may become absolutely necessary."

Apprehensions of Retrogression in Education.

216. Some serious misgivings have been expressed by persons deeply interested in the promotion of sound education as to the prospects indicated by recent educational statistics. On the 17th July last a statement drawn up by the Archbishop of the West Indies was published on behalf of the Diocesan Council of the Church of England in Jamaica, from which I quote the following passages: "Attention needs to be called to the serious fact that while the population is increasing, the number of children attending school is diminishing, and the children are

not in school a sufficient number of days during their school life to reach a decent standard of knowledge even in reading, writing, and arithmetic; so that the education secured at present by the majority of children who attend school is intellectually less satisfactory than it was, in spite of the fact that the teachers are each year becoming more competent. Instead of being over-educated, as some people say, those who are on the books are under-educated, and large numbers are not on the books at all. The country must suffer terribly for this failure both immediately and in the future.

"I submitted this statement to Bishop Douet for his criticism and suggestions, and he has written as follows:—

"By the report of the Education Board for the year ending 31st March, 1901, just published, it will be seen that the number of children in average attendance has fallen 16 per cent., and there is no doubt that the decrease in attendance will be found to be still greater when the returns are made up to 31st March, 1902. To this fact that only 50,987 children are in average attendance out of 120,000 who ought to be in school, is to be added what has been observed in many parts of the Island, a loss of interest in the education of their children on the part of parents. There is also a strong feeling abroad that, owing to the irregularity of attendance, children are compelled to leave school before they have acquired a sufficient education to be of any use to them in after life. Children who leave school in the third or fourth standard, as very large numbers of them do, cannot read intelligently, and are unable to write a simple English sentence, and will, within a year or two of leaving school, completely forget all they have learned."

"Among the things urgently necessary to be done with as little delay as possible, is the gradual introduction, throughout the Island, of a system of compulsory attendance at Elementary Schools for a limited number of years, in the manner recommended in the Report of the last Education Commission. By making attendance compulsory, in the first year of its coming into force only on children six years old, and in the second year on children either six or seven years old, and in the third year on children either six, seven, or eight years old, and so on, the effect would be gradual, both as regards the demand it made upon parents to send their children to school, and as regards any extra cost to the Government due to an increase in numbers and need for further accommodation. If to this modified form of compulsion were added (until money is more plentiful) a relaxation of the present rule regarding space accommodation in schools (which though good in itself is not absolutely necessary in this country) an immediate large outlay for buildings would be avoided. We should then see the beginnings of a system which would prevent ultimate injury to the public through the up-growth of an ignorant population; for by these means every child would obtain, within a limited number of years, a definite, plain, useful education. This education would also, in the

case of many pupils, prove a stepping-stone to further advances in knowledge and practical power of serving themselves, their families and their country."

More Promising Signs.

217. These observations were written before the Educational returns for the year 1901-1902 were available for reference. It is true that there was in that year as a whole, as anticipated by Bishop Douet, a further reduction (though slight) in average attendance. On the other hand, the Superintending Inspector of Schools reports that there has been a great improvement in regularity of attendance and in the efficiency of the schools generally. This is especially the case in regard to the amalgamated schools. Whilst in some cases, though not in all, the total attendance has been diminished, the average marks per school have risen from 48 to 55, or by about 15 per cent. In one instance, instead of three average second class schools we have now one high first-class school, with very little falling-off in the total attendance. The Superintending Inspector of Schools thinks it likely that in the course of a year or two, when the situation is better understood the attendance may quite recover itself, and the amalgamations already carried out fully justify themselves on the score of attendance as they have done on that of efficiency and economy. I am, moreover, glad to be able to say that the facts of the situation do not appear to be altogether as apprehended by the Archbishop and Bishop Douet. The reports of the Inspectors of Schools do not bear out the impression that the education at present secured to those who attend is less satisfactory than it was, but represent the contrary, whilst in the four months, April to July, 1902, following the close of the year under report, there has been an increase of 10 per cent. in the school attendance. This will of itself cause an automatic increase in educational expenditure. The general introduction of compulsion would result in a further addition to this expenditure, for which the Public Revenue of the Island, according to recent experience, could not provide without a further increase of taxation.

Results of Year.

218. The teaching of the elementary subjects has yielded, according to the Inspector's reports, slightly improving results, but arithmetic, whilst more nearly on a par with reading and writing than formerly, is still in most instances the weakest of the three.

Under the New Code.

219. The year under review is the first in which nearly all the schools have been examined in accordance with the schedules of the Code of 1900. In the better schools, with trained and

competent teachers, laudable and fairly successful efforts have been made to meet the new requirements, not merely with slavish literalness but with a considerable amount of intelligence and power of adaptation. It is gratifying to find that the Inspectors generally report that the courses for the training of teachers in agricultural knowledge at the Hope Gardens and at the Mico Training College, and the lectures given at various country centres by the Lecturer in Agriculture provided by the Imperial Government, and the Agricultural Instructors of the Colonial Government, are bearing good fruit. The Superintending Inspector of Schools considers that, as already stated, the schools are improving in general efficiency and need not fear comparison with any others under similar conditions and disadvantages.

Improvements of System.

220. It may be said, generally, that within a few recent years an improved system of education and an improved method of training teachers has been established in Jamaica, and that the efforts of those who have promoted these changes are beginning to bear fruit. As regards primary education, the code has been amended so as to include, besides reading, recitation, writing, English, arithmetic and Scripture, regulations regarding manual training and agricultural science.

Manual and Technical Training.

221. I take the following account of the existing arrangements from "A Paper on Education in Jamaica in relation to skilled handicraft and Agricultural Work" written by the Archbishop of the West Indies at the request of and for publication by the Committee of Council on Education.

SECTION I.—MANUAL TRAINING AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE REQUIRED TO BE TAUGHT IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN JAMAICA.

"(1.) *Manual Training*—The primary schools are divided for the purpose of drawing and manual occupations into three divisions, lower, middle, and upper. The manual occupations in each case are based on a drawing scheme. The drawing ranges from kindergarten drawing and simple mechanical drawing in the lower division, to freehand drawing, drawing to scale, and geometrical drawing in the upper Division. The manual occupations based on the above course of drawing include colour work, clay modelling, paper and card board modelling, and simple modelling in wood.

"(2.) *Agriculture*.—The Schools are also divided into three divisions for this subject, which is intended not merely to insure that a certain amount of information is acquired, but more especially to train the children in observation and inference by actual close touch with the objects and life around them. In the lower division a course of thirty-six lessons is given in animal and plant life, dwelling especially on the animals and plants found in Jamaica. In the middle and upper divisions more advanced general science is taught, and also more agricultural science, including the formation of soils, plant food manures, and common objects of cultivation in Jamaica. All schools are required to illustrate the teaching in elementary science, general and agricultural, by experiments carried on by means of plants grown in pots and boxes.

SECTION II.—ADVANCED COURSE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

"(1.) *Manual Training*.—Workshops for the advanced course of manual training "woodwork" have been established at five town centres in the Island. The course includes mechanical drawing and advanced exercises in tool work. This is generally a two-year course for Standards V. and VI.

"(2.) *Agriculture and Horticulture*.—The advanced course for schools is a practical application, in out-door experiments, of the knowledge obtained in the schools. An experiment ground of not less than a quarter of an acre must be provided in which every boy above 11 years of age must be taught practical skill in all agricultural operations. The course is open to girls. An extra grant is given for proficiency in this course."

The above manual training and agricultural teaching is being introduced as rapidly as possible into the schools; but it cannot be pushed on very quickly, because teachers require to be trained to give the proper instruction in these subjects; and comparatively few of them have yet been so trained.

TRAINING OF PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

9. The Education Code Syllabus for training colleges now requires (in addition to reading, writing, arithmetic, Euclid, grammar, geography, history and Scripture) that the following subjects be taught.

"(1.) *Manual Training*.—The first year students take a course including paper folding and designing, colour work, paper and card board modelling, clay modelling, simplified woodwork. Second and third year students take a more advanced course of drawing and manual training "woodwork" on the lines of English requirements in the same subjects. This course requires a thorough knowledge of orthographic and oblique projection drawing and the use of all the ordinary carpenter's tools.

"(2.) *Agriculture*.—In the first year, a course of elementary physics and chemistry, preparatory to the study of the life and food of plants, and to a knowledge of the composition of soils and manures, is laid down. This course is chiefly practical and experimental, but an intelligent knowledge of the Tropical Readers is also required. The Tropical Readers are two volumes, prepared and published at the instance of the Jamaica Board of Education, by Messrs. Blackie, for use in Jamaica schools, strongly recommended by Dr. Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, and now in use throughout the British West Indies.

"In the second year, agricultural science of a more advanced character is prescribed. This course includes a knowledge of the composition of the atmosphere and water and their action on plant life, the formation of soils, their cultivation, need for manures, structure of plants, plant life, germination and nutrition, together with a practical knowledge obtained in box-gardening and out-door cultivation with experiments and illustrations, as in the French Scheme of Agriculture for Elementary Schools.

"In the third year, the theory prescribed for the second year is amplified, and the instruction is mainly practical, the college lectures bearing upon this side of the subject. The course includes the knowledge of the proper use of agricultural tools, preparation of seed beds, sowing, transplanting, pruning, budding, grafting, destruction of insect pests, and the planting and care of common Jamaica crops."

The foregoing subjects are being thoroughly taught at the Mico College, which is practically the only one now in operation in the Island for the training of male teachers. The headmaster of the Kingston Manual Training School directs and assists the manual training at this College. The secretary of the college, an experienced practical botanist, directs the garden operations. The Imperial lecturer in agriculture shares in the teaching at this institution; and he also assists at the Shortwood and Bethlehem, and at the St. Joseph's (Roman Catholic) Training Colleges for girls, as it is deemed desirable for the female teachers to obtain as much of this instruction as possible.

THE MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL, KINGSTON.

10. *The Manual Training School Kingston*, is an institution established in 1897 by the Government, and managed by the Board of Education. It was established for two purposes:—namely, to provide a model elementary school on English lines; and to be the medium for introducing educational handwork into the educational system of Jamaica. The school consists of a boys' and kindergarten department with an aggregate average attendance of 450 pupils. A girls' department is in contemplation. A manual training "woodwork" department is a special feature of the school. The headmaster of the school is an English trained, certificated teacher, with special qualifications in manual training. He is assisted by an English trained kindergarten mistress, and a staff of native teachers. The curriculum of the school is that prescribed in the Jamaica Code for elementary schools. Special attention is given to educational handwork which is carried on throughout the school in the form of kindergarten occupations, manual occupations (drawing and colour-work), and manual training "woodwork." The latter is taken by all the boys in the school in Standard V. and upwards. Each boy receives two hours' instruction per week.

Classes for the training of teachers are held every week at the school. The subjects taken up are Kindergarten, drawing and manual occupation and manual training "woodwork." The latter class is affiliated with the City and Guilds of London Institute, and the Institute's examination in manual training "woodwork" was held locally each year 1899-1901. The work was sent to London to be examined. At the three examinations 21 native teachers passed the first year's examination, and 12 of these went on and passed the final, thus gaining the teacher's certificate granted by the institute. These teachers are being placed in charge of manual training centres as they are established. Four such centres have recently been opened.

11. All the young men under preparation to be teachers in the primary schools have now to pass through the training above specified. Provision is made also for teachers who had gone out from college before this training was commenced, to come to Kingston, and secure the benefits of a course of manual training. Provision has likewise been made for an annual assembly of old teachers for the purpose of giving them some training in agricultural and manual work. This takes place at the Mico College and the Agricultural Experiment Station near Kingston. The present is the third year for this annual assembly. It has done much already to help existing teachers who passed through the college before agriculture was taught there; and they are thereby enabled to understand enough of the subject to enable them to teach it both theoretically and practically.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

12. As regards special schools the following can be reported:—

Efforts at industrial and agricultural training have long been made, with some partial success, at the Boys' Reformatory and Industrial School, and the Girls' Reformatory at Stony Hill; the Boys' Industrial School at Hope

Gardens ; the Girls' Industrial School at Shortwood ; the Belmont Orphanage for girls ; and the Alpha Cottage (Roman Catholic) Industrial School. Further efforts for promoting agricultural education have recently been planned on an extensive scale by Bishop Gordon (Roman Catholic) ; and a commencement has been made towards their realisation. In reply to my enquiries, Bishop Gordon has given me information of which the following is a summary.

"The work at present is in its tentative stage, the resources available being limited. The general purpose is to train boys who have no other definite prospects in life. First of all they are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic ; and have as much of agricultural education as can be obtained on a banana farm which is located near Spanish Town. Moral and religious training are an essential part of the plan. The children here are young, and have the benefit of being under the care of the sisters who aid in the management of the institution. The cost of maintaining the fifty inmates is met by the labour of those of them who can work.

"At the age of from 12 to 14 years it is intended to transfer them to a pen in the parish of St. James, where they will be given the opportunity of acquiring a thorough knowledge of all that is done on Jamaica Pens ; and the endeavour will be made to give them instruction in the most advanced methods of cultivating, harvesting and preparing for the market. [Pen in Jamaica means popularly, a grazing property and place for farming and small cultivation, as distinct from the large sugar or coffee properties.]

"The final stage of the plan is, their being transferred to land which has been secured in the parish of St. Mary. They are to work there on a co-operative system, which, however, is to give facilities for their becoming proprietors. The ultimate aim is to secure 'the formation of a God-fearing, hard-working, moral and religious, as well as intelligent peasantry, and to establish family life, which is the foundation of the morality, strength and happiness of a people. The first stage is accomplished, the second is struggling into existence, and the third is not begun.'"

It is to be hoped that this interesting experiment will secure a large assure of the success which the founder has in view.

13. The following projects have recently been initiated.

"(1.) The establishment of a farm school under the control of the Government, and largely meeting the needs of the better peasant class whose children will either win scholarships available at this farm school or will pay about twelve pounds a year. The plans for this are in shape, but are delayed for lack of funds.

"(2.) The establishment of a special section in connection with one of the principal schools in Vere, for manual training, and the teaching of agriculture. This will probably come into effective operation soon.

"(3.) Under the auspices of the Jamaica Board of Agriculture, which is an official administrative body, and also of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, which is a popular body, joint efforts are being made to give theoretical and practical agricultural instruction to adults and young people in numerous centres of the Island, by means of conversational lectures in the field with demonstrations and illustrations. Two specially trained men are thus working under the Board of Agriculture, and two others with large local general experience are giving partial services under the direction of the Agricultural Society. The aim is to popularise among the middle aged people and the younger folks who have passed out of the schools, the newer teaching and practice in all branches of agriculture. These lectures have proved very useful, and there is a growing interest in them. They effectively supplement the efforts made in the schools among the young."

ADVANCED TEACHING.

14. *Advanced Teaching.*—As regards more advanced teaching for the middle and upper classes, and for those from the lower classes, who may show special ability, there is the Experiment Station at the Hope Botanical and Agricultural Gardens, with a defined course of instruction in the laboratory under the highly qualified agricultural chemist. This institution is now getting into active operation. It has taken many years to secure that amount of popular interest and public support necessary to create it; but it will, before the close of this year, have methods in operation for giving (either free or at an almost nominal charge) complete technical training in agricultural chemistry and other subjects bearing on agriculture.

SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION.

15. *Secondary and Higher Education.*—The Jamaica College heretofore called "The Jamaica High School and University College" is a public Institution located close to the Experiment Station. It is a high class school of the ordinary kind, giving facilities for teaching in arts up to the standard of securing degrees from the University of London. But it has long aimed at developing a scientific side, with special reference to interesting boys in agriculture, and in the case of some (at the later stages of their education) securing for them special agricultural training at the Experiment Station now at last being established; and also to prepare some boys for taking the full technical course there. The Jamaica Schools Commission which manages this Institution, has also close relations of general supervision to a number of endowed schools in the Island, and is endeavouring to foster developments of scientific and practical teaching in all of them, with a view to the better fitting of the more advanced section of the community for higher technical training in Jamaica or elsewhere.

16. These various efforts for modifying the instruction given to the young people of Jamaica, of all classes, are now passing out of the controversial and tentative stage into the practical and effective. There are still some persons who condemn the education being given; but these are chiefly persons who are not aware of what has been done to modify the system in all schools and in all grades of education during the last three or four years; or else they are persons who think it possible to teach nothing but trades and farming in schools. The endeavour is being made to secure thorough development of the intelligence of the children generally, with special stress upon those parts of ordinary book learning that are likely to be of most use to working folks: and to add those mental and practical preparations which are possible to be given in ordinary schools whereby mental tastes and physical aptitudes will be developed, and an interest created in the subjects which the pupils have to take up and work at later on. It will be a more wholesome training than the mere book learning of the past; and there is only one reason why the actual attainments in book learning should not be better than heretofore. That reason is the unfortunate restriction, at present, of educational advantages generally through lack of public resources * * * * The arrangements for making the teaching good and practical are being matured as fast as it is reasonable to expect. But the number of schools has been reduced, so that facilities for easy attendance in country districts are less; the number of years during which children may attend the schools at public expense has been reduced; but there is no compulsion, so that the attendance is casual and limited. This must be altered, or the advantages of the better methods will be lost to Jamaica because of the comparatively small number of children getting the full benefit of them."

222. I have thought it useful to include the whole of the foregoing rather lengthy summary in this Report in view of the very great importance which must be attached, in the economy of this Colony, to the aims and attempts therein recorded. I have already dealt with kindred educational efforts in reporting on the Agricultural Department.

Expenditure.

223. The total amounts expended on education in 1901-1902 and 1900-1901, respectively, were as below:—

For Elementary Education.	1901-02	1900-01
Grants to Elementary School Teachers	42,936	42,482
Building Grants	179	375
Administration Inspectors	4,819	5,222
Government Training College for Women Teachers ...	1,204	1,204
Grants to Training Colleges	2,431	2,660
Agricultural Courses for Teachers	258	95
Board of Education and Printing	140	115
Total	51,967	52,153

For Secondary Education.	1901-02	1901-01
Annuities to Industrial Schools	5,244	5,244
Jamaica College	1,050	1,300
Scholarships	1,166	1,107
Secondary School, Montego Bay	200	200
Total	7,660	7,851

224. This summary shows that the School Tax provides, as mentioned above, for about one-fourth of the amount of grants to schools, and about one-fifth of the total amount spent for elementary education.

225. I wish to mention a very promising movement that has been taking shape in the course of the year, dependent entirely on the voluntary effort and gratuitous public spirit of those who have been active in it. At the suggestion of the Senior Sub-Inspector of Schools, and in co-operation with school managers and teachers, public educational meetings have been held in several localities in Manchester. One purpose has been to impress upon parents the duty and the great importance of sending their children to school regularly and punctually until the limit of school age is reached. For the children above school age plans have been set forth for continuing their education under the supervision and guidance of teachers, and such aid as can be given by ministers of religion and their wives and others interested in the educational welfare of the people. As the outcome of this movement, which has just begun, improvement classes have been organised at five centres, some for the boys and young men and others for the girls and young women—the latter receiving practical instruction in domestic economy. These classes are arranged for a six months' course. Educational committees have been appointed in the several school districts to make general arrangements for the improvement

classes and to act as Voluntary School Attendance Committees to secure a more regular attendance of the children in the schools. Some parents among those who are in highest repute in the community have chosen to act with managers and teachers as the Educational Committee in their district, and are taking part in the work with earnest and intelligent interest. The formation of book-clubs, in small groups of four or six among the young men and young women, has been begun, and it is expected that this feature of the work will be of special value and will be an important auxiliary to the school libraries existing in the same districts.

TRAINING OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Shortwood College.

226. Sufficient reference has, perhaps been made already to the Training Colleges and the Manual Training School. With regard to Shortwood Training College for Female Elementary School Teachers, which is managed by a Board of Governors appointed by the Governor, and which receives a grant of £1,200 a year, it may be mentioned that there were thirty students in training during the year, all of whom presented themselves for the Cambridge Local Examination. Twenty-three passed, three with Honours.

Examination of Teachers.

227. The usual examination of Training Colleges and teachers was held in December, 1901, with results as shown below :—

College.	Presented.	Passed.	Honours.	First Class.	Second Class.	Third Class.
First year students—						
Mico students, Jamaica ...	24	21	6	6	7	2
Mico students, Antigua ...	8	5	1	1	2	1
Shortwood	12	12	1	1	2	8
Bethlehem	7	6	—	4	2	—
St. Josephs	4	4	—	—	—	4
Second year students—						
Mico students, Jamaica ...	3	2	—	—	1	1
Mico students, Antigua ...	3	3	1	2	—	—
Shortwood	10	7	1	1	2	3
Bethlehem	5	4	—	1	3	—
St. Josephs	2	2	—	—	1	1
Third year students—						
Mico, Jamaica students ...	30	25	8	7	7	3
Shortwood	8	4	—	1	2	1
Bethlehem	5	4	—	1	3	—
St. Josephs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	121	99	18	25	32	24
Teachers	13	6	—	—	1	5
Teachers for permanent registration.	11	4	—	—	—	4

228. On these results the Superintending Inspector of Schools makes the following observations:—

“The percentage of passes amongst students has again slightly fallen from 85·4 to 81·8. The worst results were shown in the second year, the students in which for some reasons have not been quite up to the average standard from the time they were admitted. The number of teachers presented and the percentage of passes show also a decrease. The results of the examination of teachers for permanent registration are still unsatisfactory, and I fear they will continue to be so. Self-training, even in elementary branches of knowledge, is by many in Jamaica considered an impossibility, and consequently is often not attempted. Modern text books are prepared with such immense care that no possible difficulty on the part of the learner shall be over-looked that the instruction to be derived from them is far better and easier than nine-tenths of the oral instruction available in Jamaica, and the great aim of all teachers should be to make their pupils fond of reading and capable of pursuing their studies by themselves. Some of the best work in England is done by solitary students, but when a student in Jamaica is called upon to reach a certain standard of attainment to qualify himself for a professional career, whether as land surveyor, teacher or what not, the reply often received is, ‘It is impossible; there is no one in my neighbourhood who can teach me.’”

Pupil Teachers.

229. The following are the results of the examination of pupil teachers held in July, 1901:—

Year.			Pupil Teachers.					Volunteer Candidates.				
			1.	2.	3.	4.	Total.	1.	2.	3.	4.	Total.
Presented	...	...	117	70	57	75	319	304	94	5	134	597
Passed	...	...	22	44	31	51	148	49	37	16	67	169
Per cent.	...	...	19	63	54	68	46	16	39	25	50	28

230. “These results,” the Superintending Inspector of Schools observes, “can not be called satisfactory, and indicate the need for far more careful preparation of the candidates for examination. No teacher in the Island should send up a candidate, as some did on this occasion, who cannot even transcribe a headline for a writing copy correctly.”

Revision of Code.

231. During the year the Education Code was revised and amended in certain respects affecting the allotments of grants. The revised Code only came into force on the 1st May last, one month after the termination of the year under review. It may be well, however, to indicate briefly the effect of the most important modifications.

232. Under the old Code (in force during the whole of the year 1901-1902) a school with an average attendance of over 80 and under 150 could have one additional woman teacher (or, in a very few exceptional cases, two). The additional woman teacher's salary (*i.e.*, the grant available for paying it) was fixed at £20 a year. Many additional women teachers are highly qualified, registered, and even in some cases certificated teachers, others were novices with no training and slight qualification, but the salary was uniform for all. Under the new Code the amount available for the payment of assistants will vary with the size of the school, from £6 for a school of 80 to £48 for a school of 150. Managers are left free to make the best arrangements they can for staffing their schools with the means at their disposal, *e.g.*, with an average of 80 it will be hardly possible in most cases to do more than secure a pupil teacher (the special grants for whom are abolished) with an average of 120, and a grant under Article 114 of £30, either a superior assistant at £30 or a less highly qualified assistant at £24 and a pupil teacher at £6 may be employed, whilst the £48 available to a school with an average of 150 may be laid out in a number of different ways according to the special circumstances of the school. Managers of the larger schools with a considerable sum at their disposal will be able to secure, and pay well for, the services of highly qualified assistants; managers with less will have to be satisfied with assistants of lower qualifications or may even in some instances find it expedient to spend the whole of the sum at their disposal in providing assistance during those months of the year only during which the attendance is highest. In all cases they will go into the teaching market and secure the best that can be got for their money. On the other hand the Government will be paying a definite sum for the teaching of each additional scholar, a plan which is logical, and makes something like reliable estimates for the first time possible. The "unrecognised assistants" who have been allowed during the past year or two will cease to form a separate class. There will be no limitation to the staff that may be sanctioned by the Department so long as it can be provided with the grant available, but each member of it must have some qualifications.

233. In order, however, that managers may lay out their money to the best advantage they must clearly know how much is at their disposal. Hitherto the grant for each school year has been determined *at the end* of it, and if this system had

continued the management would have had nothing definite to offer to an assistant or pupil teacher. It is clear that a manager would secure a better assistant if he could offer him a fixed and definite salary for the year of £30 than if it were anything between £15 and £45, not to be determined until the end of the year. The further change has, therefore, been made of making the grant for a year dependent on the results of the examination at the beginning of the year so that each manager will see clearly a year ahead at all events, and can make fixed and definite arrangements with the staff for that year. The new Articles necessitate the revision of the financial arrangements with the staff at each inspection.

234. Another change in the Code affects the teachers' special grants on certificates. These grants have hitherto been nothing when the marks were under 42, £5 for marks from 42 to 55, and £10 for marks over 55. The anomaly therefore existed that a teacher who raised the marks of his school from 42 to 55 gained nothing in his special grant, whilst a rise from 41 to 42 marks or from 55 to 56 meant a gain of £5 to the teacher. The special grant now rises in exact proportion to the number of marks above 40, so that every gain of one mark has a definite value.

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Table X.

235. A table is appended showing the number of scholars in the Secondary and other endowed schools of the Island and the results obtained in the Cambridge Local Examinations during the year.

236. The work of the Endowed Secondary Schools throughout the Island is tested annually under the Cambridge Local Examination scheme.

Creditable record for the Year.

237. The results of the examination held in December, 1901, were generally satisfactory, and very creditable in the case of the Jamaica High School, Wolmers' School for Girls, and the Schools of the Munro and Dickenson Trust at Potsdam and Hampton. Mr. B. W. Dodd, of the Potsdam School, was awarded the Jamaica Scholarship as the result of this examination. He achieved the highest record for Jamaica in distinctions in eight subjects, namely, Religious knowledge, Greek, English, Latin, French, German, Mathematics, and Applied Mathematics. The prize of £12 offered by the Syndicate at Cambridge for the best senior boy was also awarded to Mr. Dodd.

High School &c.

238. University College, attached to the Jamaica High School, continues to provide facilities for local study for degrees in Arts and Science at the London University. Provision is also offered at this Institution for the practical training of scholars in agricultural science at the Government Botanic Garden and Agricultural Experiment Station adjoining the school premises. The Government Agricultural Lecturer, Mr. Buttenshaw, continued to give instruction to the boys of the High School and to give lectures at University College open to other students.

Jamaica College.

239. The name "Jamaica High School and University College" has been changed to "Jamaica College" with a view to marking the unity of management of the Institution and of the work done by it, and its identity of character with other institutions doing similar work in the West Indies.

240. Scholars at Wolmers' Girls School were presented for the examinations of the Royal Drawing Society. In Division II. four candidates were presented for Honours, of whom three gained Honours and the fourth passed. Thirty-six entered for the Pass Division, of whom 25 passed. In Division I. 97 entered and 75 passed, 39 with Honours. One candidate for the History group of the Cambridge Senior Local Examination gained a First Class Certificate and distinction in English History and for Languages and Mathematics a full Honours Certificate. Another student gained a First Class in the Language group and a Second Class for Mathematics, and a distinction in Arithmetic. The same girl had already gained Honours in the Cambridge Senior Local, and on the joint results has gained a full Honours Certificate in the higher local examination.

241. A new scheme has been adopted for the Titchfield School, (Port Antonio) which provides separate governing bodies for the management of the Trust property and of the school.

242. Arrangements are being made with a view to providing for manual and agricultural instruction at a school at Alley, in Lower Clarendon, connected with the Vere Trust.

243. The results in the examinations of the University of London during the year have been as follows: three candidates sat for the Matriculation Examination in June, one passed in the First Division. Two sat for the Intermediate Examination in Arts in July, one, who entered for Honours, was recommended for a pass. Two candidates entered for the Matriculation in January, both passed in the First Division.

Secondary School, Montego Bay.

244. The scholars numbered 34 as against 29 in the previous year. The increase is attributable to a reduction of the fees.

245. In addition to the above-mentioned schools and colleges there are the Mico, Shortwood, St. Josephs' and Bethlehem Training Colleges for Teachers which are aided by Government grants; the Manual Training School, Kingston; and numerous private schools, many of them furnishing a fair basis of education. A list of these schools is contained in the Blue Book return on Education.

(C.) INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Stony Hill Reformatory.

246. The Government Reformatory at Stony Hill for Boys and Girls is administered in combination with an Industrial School for Boys. The numbers, admissions during the year, &c., were as follows:—

—	1st August, 1901.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Dead.	31st March, 1902.
Reformatory boys ...	100	17	20	1	96
Industrial school boys ...	49	7	12	1	43
	149	24	32	2	139
Reformatory girls ...	15	6	1	—	20
Total ...	164	30	33	2	159

247. The boys are employed under qualified tradesmen in carpentering, smiths' work, tailoring, masons' work, bricklaying, cooking and baking, and in garden and field cultivation. The girls wash all the clothing and bedding of the Institution, make clothing, and clean their own premises. The boys did work valued at £1,013 0s. 6d., of which £373 3s. 2d. was paid for in cash by customers for their labour and produce, and the balance, £639 17s. 4d., was the value of repairs and other work done for the Institution and of produce consumed there. The girls did work valued at £189 1s. 4d., earning £1 8s. 3d. in cash.

248. Special attention has been paid to agricultural work. Experiments have been carried out under the direction of the Board of Agriculture. The coffee produced has been carefully cured and 35 barrels shipped to England (with one barrel of cocoa) realised (after the close of the year) £64 19s. 4d., which must be added to the earnings of the Institution already recorded.

249. The following summary shows the principal particulars regarding the other Industrial Schools of the Colony during the last financial year as compared with the preceding year:—

—	Hope.	Shortwood.	Alpha Cottage.		Belmont.
—	Under control of				
	Government, with Board of visitors (advisory).	Government, with Board of visitors (advisory).	Roman Catholic Church.		Church of England.
Inmates:—	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Girls.
31st March, 1901...	40	30	38	33	10
31st March, 1902...	39	29	33	26	13
Health	Good	Fairly good	Excellent		No special Report.

250. The usual routine work at the several institutions has been maintained during the year, the boys for the most part being employed in field work and other outdoor labour, the girls being engaged in cooking, sewing, and laundry work.

251. Alpha Cottage again obtained a First Class at the annual inspection of the schools, and the Inspector of Schools who examined at Hope reported that on the whole the work of the school had struck him more favourably than it had done for some years past and that he hoped for further improvement.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

(1.) *Public Hospital, Kingston.*

252. The Public Medical and Hospital Service of the Island is under the direction of Deputy Surgeon-General (retired) C. B. Mosse, C.B., C.M.G., Superintending Medical Officer.

253. The principal Government Medical Institution is the Public Hospital at Kingston. The Medical Staff consists of a Senior Medical Officer and two Resident Officers, with two Supernumerary Medical officers attached for duty, who are available for outside duty in cases of emergency. The number of the cases treated (3,729) in this hospital during the year

1901-1902 was the highest recorded. The daily average number of beds occupied was 207 against 201 during the preceding year; 4,255 applications for admission were refused; 7,929 persons were assisted as out-patients, an increase of nearly 2,000 over last year. There were 241 deaths, an average of 6.46 per cent. of the cases as against 258, an average of 8.21, in the previous year. This death-rate, the lowest recorded for many years, must be considered as extremely satisfactory when it is borne in mind that a great number of cases are admitted in an almost moribund condition and others suffering from advanced disease. Seventy per cent. of the deaths occurred within 72 hours of admission.

Principal diseases treated.

254. Malarial fever contributed the greatest number of cases, 226, with 18 deaths. There were 70 cases of tuberculosis, with 32 deaths, and 28 of enteric fever, with 12 deaths. 2,789 patients were discharged as cured; 347 as relieved; 156 as not relieved; and 196 remained in the hospital at the close of the year.

255. There were 1,107 operations performed, attended by a mortality of 16, or 1.44 per cent. The excellence of the nursing and sanitary arrangements is attested by these figures and by the entire absence of hospital disease.

256. The Superintending Medical Officer is well satisfied with the record and results of the year, which I consider deserves appreciative public acknowledgment. The buildings and accommodation of the female wards may not be in all respects so good as might be desired, but the devotion and ability of the staff supply compensation for such deficiencies, and the result is a very well-conducted and valuable Public Institution administered at a low rate of expenditure.

257. The average cost of each patient was at the rate of £36 4s. 9d. per annum, or 1s. 11½d. per diem. The average cost of each case was £2 0s. 3d. These figures show an economy over the cost of last year. The total expenditure, not including repairs to buildings, was £7,501 12s. 8d. against £7,479 17s. 1d., although the number of in-patients rose from 3,142 to 3,739, and of out-patients from 5,935 to 7,929.

(2.) Maternity Hospital, Kingston.

258. The Victoria Jubilee Lying-in Hospital is conducted by a matron, with assistants and pupil-nurses attached for training. The Medical Officer is also surgeon to the General Penitentiary.

259. The admissions during the year numbered 785, the highest since the hospital was opened, and 302 more than last year. This increased demand on the Institution severely taxed its capacity and the energies of the staff. There were, however, only seven deaths among the patients—four of these were ad-

mitted in a dying condition. Ninety-nine operations were performed. Eight pupil-nurses completed the course of training and 12 entered. The nett total expenditure was actually less than last year, the average cost per inmate was at the rate of £27 18s. 5d. per annum against £39 18s. 4d., and the average total cost of each case £1 3s. 2d. against £1 18s. 10d.

260. This is in all respects an admirably conducted hospital, most creditable to the Matron and her assistants, and to the Medical Officer. The demands on its accommodation during the year were excessive; such over-pressure must tend to diminish its importance as a training institution for nurses for the benefit of the whole Island, and it has become necessary to place more restrictions on admissions. Whilst valuable aid is rendered to many respectable mothers, it is unfortunate that so much of the demand arises from among the lowest and loosest order of young women and girls of Kingston, and that a large proportion of the fortuitous progeny so carefully ushered into the world are born with impaired constitutions and enjoy little chance of proper nurture after they leave the hospital.

(3.) *Public General Hospitals.*

261. In addition to the Public Hospital at Kingston, there are 19 Public General Hospitals distributed over the Island under charge of the District Medical Officers in which, during the year 1901-1902 10,842 persons were treated, classified as below. The figures for the last year are also shown for comparison:—

—					1901-02.	1900-01.
Ordinary cases (free)	...	...	...	...	4,146	3,132
Indian immigrants	...	...	...	...	5,798	8,357
Paupers	...	...	...	...	154	8,257
Paying patients	...	...	...	...	162	135
Constables	...	...	...	...	576	553
Prisoners	...	...	...	...	6	—
Total	...	...	...	...	10,842	12,115

262. There were 273 deaths in these hospitals, a rate of 2½ per cent. 1,177 operations were performed, attended by two deaths, a mortality rate of .17 per cent. Out-door patients were treated as below:—

Ordinary cases (free)	...	...	...	13,341
Indian immigrants	...	...	...	1,439
Constables	...	...	...	1,931
Prisoners	...	...	...	2,785
Parochial midwifery cases	...	...	...	86
				19,582

Principal diseases treated.

263. The most prevalent diseases treated in these hospitals were malarial fevers (4,530 cases), skin disease (1,303), digestive (472), rheumatic (369), respiratory (299), and syphilitic (265). The diminution in the proportion of Indian immigrant cases to the large number to which attention was called in the last year's Blue Book Report is noticeable. It is to be hoped that this may indicate better acclimatisation of the latest batches of immigrants. The most frequented hospitals were those at Annatto Bay (2,135 admissions), Lionel Town (1,786), Port Antonio (1,308), Port Maria (929), Spanish Town (830), Hordley (592), and Buff Bay (543).

The high numbers in all of these (except perhaps Spanish Town) were greatly swelled by Indian immigrants.

264. The value of the work done by these hospitals in relieving suffering and in checking the spread of disease is very great, and would be far greater were cases sent in to them in earlier stages of illness. The treatment in them of skin diseases and ulcers, to which West Indian populations are very subject, and which yield readily to early attention but which if neglected, cripple the patient, is, I think, showing a marked impression on the prevalence of these affections.

265. The total nett expenditure on these 19 hospitals (not including the maintenance of the buildings or the salaries of the District Medical Officers who supervise and practise in them) was £7,930. A dispensary is also maintained at Glengoffe, the nett cost of which during the year was £86. From personal inspection of most of them I am able to bear witness to the general excellence of the administration of these institutions by the officers immediately responsible and their effectual supervision by the Superintending Medical Officer.

(B.) ASYLUMS.

(1.) *Lunatic Asylum.*

266. Staff—one Medical Superintendent and two Resident Medical Officers.

267. There were 868 patients in the Lunatic Asylum at the beginning of the year, 863 at its close,—423 males and 440 females. 99 males and 83 females were admitted during the year, making 1,050 patients under treatment, or 31 more than last year. 109 patients were discharged and 78 died. The net expenditure on the institution was £14,213, the daily average number of patients 863, the average annual cost of each patient £16 9s. 5d. and the average daily cost 10·83d., the same as during the last two years. A course of lectures was delivered

during the year by the Junior Resident Medical Officer to the attendants and nurses on the care and treatment of the insane, which proved both popular and beneficial.

Principal Causes of Death.

268. A large proportion of the deaths was due to pulmonary diseases which are in part attributed by the medical staff to the crowded state of some of the wards. The necessity for financial economy has hitherto made it impossible to occupy the new buildings, the construction of which was almost completed three years ago, but arrangements have now been made for equipping and utilising one of the new wards so as to relieve the existing pressure on the male quarters of the Asylum.

(2.) Lepers' Home.

269. The Medical Superintendent of the Lepers' Home at Spanish Town is also surgeon to the Spanish Town Public Hospital.

270. The excellent record of this Institution has been well maintained during the year. The Medical Superintendent reports well of the conduct of the patients and acknowledges the continued kindness and assistance of visitors and clergy. The school has been efficiently conducted, and the cultivation of the land taken in a few years ago continues to be of interest and profit to the inmates.

271. The number of admissions has been smaller than in any year since the Home was opened in 1879. Nine were registered, including two re-admissions, none of them recent cases. The Medical Attendant reports that leprosy is certainly becoming rarer in Jamaica, and is of opinion that, if it were added to the schedule of diseases to be compulsorily notified, the District Medical Officers could in their several districts prescribe such simple sanitary measures as would in a short time completely eradicate the disease from the Island. I am taking steps to pursue this suggestion. The death-rate was 11·4 per cent. of the total. Of 14 deaths from leprosy, 5 were accelerated by chronic kidney disease and 4 by chronic diarrhoea.

Intercurrent Diseases.

272. Certain intercurrent diseases specially manifested, viz., neuritis, inflammation of the eye and nose, dyspepsia, diarrhoea and kidney disease, Dr. Neish reports to be specially incidental to leprosy. He has no doubt that anaesthetic leprosy is a specific peripheral neuritis; the diseases of the eye and nose are set up by an invasion of the tissues of those organs by the *lepra* bacillus. The diseases of digestion he reports to be due partly to the very liberal scale of diet, partly to ulceration

of the intestines by the disease. Chronic inflammation of the kidneys he attributes occasionally to the invasion of the kidney by leprosy, but more commonly to trophic changes in the organ as a symptom of neuritis—it being especially marked in cases of anaesthetic leprosy.

(C.) POOR HOUSES AND POOR RELIEF.

Administration of Poor Law.

273. Poor relief in this Island is administered by the various Parochial Boards under the general control of a Board of Supervision. It is based on the principle that any destitute person unable to work and earn the means of subsistence is entitled to relief. The giving of relief is in the hands of the Parochial Boards with a right of appeal, in cases of refusal of or of inadequate relief, to the Board of Supervision.

274. Tables XI. and XII. annexed furnish particulars of the numbers of persons maintained or relieved out of the Poor Rates and of the amount expended for these purposes in the year under review.

Lunatics, &c.

275. The statistics as to numbers of and expenditure on registered poor discriminate between relief given in the parishes to the ordinary outdoor and indoor poor and relief afforded outside of the parishes in Government Institutions for Industrial School children and lunatics. The former class of relief is in the hands of Parochial Boards and responds to good administration. The latter is practically beyond the control of Parochial Boards, seeing that all Industrial School children and lunatics, with very few exceptions, are committed, under the separate laws applicable, to these Institutions at the instance and through the instrumentality of persons other than Parochial Boards or their officers although the pauper funds of the parish bear the cost.

276. The total number of indoor and outdoor poor at the end of 1901-1902, viz., 4,998, shows an increase of 305 over that at the beginning of the year. This represents an increase in the percentage of paupers to the population of 0·02. If there be added the Industrial School children and lunatics the increases are reduced to 279 and 0·01 respectively.

Increases of Pauperism.

277. From the Report of the Board of Supervision it would appear that the chief increases are in the following six parishes, viz., Kingston (96), Trelawny (34), St. James (28), Hanover (57), St. Elizabeth (28), and Manchester (26), and that the chief causes of these increases are alleged to be the following—(1)

want of work, (2) inability of friends or relatives to continue aid formerly given, (3) the low prices of produce, (4) the want of a Poor House in Manchester, and (5) the general depression in the Island.

278. The Report, however, goes on to state—"It is satisfactory to note that there are five parishes, viz., Portland, St. Mary, St. Ann, Westmoreland, and St. Catherine, where the number per 1,000 of population remains stationary or is reduced." In St. Mary and St. Catherine there are actual decreases of 7 and 2 respectively.

Expenditure.

279. The expenditure in the parishes was £25,259, as compared with £26,260 in the previous year. In connection with this apparent anomaly of a decrease in expenditure as compared with an increase in numbers it is to be remembered that the statements of numbers are based on those of the last day of the year under review and are not an average for the year, possibly also some retrenchment in the allowances in some of the parishes may have been affected. The total charge per head of population for all kinds of relief remains the same, viz., 1s. 1d.

280. The table giving details in respect of the several parishes shows considerable differences in the ratio of paupers and expenditure to population. The ratio of paupers to population varies from 1 in 39 in Kingston to 1 in 275 in St. Mary. The number runs up to over 200 in also St. Elizabeth and St. Ann. These three parishes are all parishes where a good Poor House has been made use of either recently or in the past not alone to afford a thorough and generous relief to those within its shelter but to act as a proper test to weed out improper applicants, although it is true that in one of those parishes the use of this test was pushed too far. In the charge per head of population these parishes also stand out among the lowest, i.e., St. Elizabeth, 7d.; St. Ann, 8d.; and St. Mary, 10d.; but it is also to be noted that other three parishes, viz., Westmoreland, Clarendon, and Manchester, where the ratio in numbers is respectively 1 in 178, 1 in 191, and 1 in 115, have charges per head of population of 9d., 9d., and 10d. respectively.

281. In Kingston the large amount of pauperism still remains a serious problem, although of late years the rate of increase has been checked, with indeed in one recent year a reversal to a decrease, and it is to be hoped that a maximum has now been reached.

In Kingston the percentage of paupers to population and the charge per head of population stand at 2.56 and 3s. 5d., while the mean rates for the remaining or country parishes are 0.64 and 11d. respectively.

(D.) SAVINGS BANK.

Diminution of the Balance at Deposit.

282. The Government Savings Bank had at credit of depositors on the 31st March, 1902, £424,648 6s. 2d., and held on account of this liability £420,847 10s. 7d. in investments and £3,798 15s. 7d. in cash. The balance of deposits had diminished during the year by £26,219, being the amount by which the total withdrawals, £232,983, exceeded the deposits, £206,764.

283. The following table shows the division of these transactions between official and private accounts and the comparative figures of the four preceding years:—

Year.	Number of Deposit as Accounts.	Deposits, including interest.		Withdrawals.	
		Government.	Ordinary.	Government.	Ordinary.
		£	£	£	£
1897-98	30,660	45,026	183,759	34,023	195,753
1898-99	31,870	47,084	189,480	29,345	183,344
1899-1900	32,880	34,302	195,141	59,921	194,744
1900-01	33,659	42,420	177,964	40,041	198,135
1901-02	34,537	44,519	162,245	49,769	183,213

284. The total number of depositors shows a continuance of its steady increase, but the total amount deposited during the year on ordinary accounts shows, as it did in 1900-1901, a decrease compared with the figures of the previous twelve months. This decrease in the year under review is £15,719, upwards of 8 per cent., whilst the withdrawals exceed the deposits by £20,968. The resulting diminution in the volume of depositors' balances was distributed pretty generally throughout the Island, as the following table shows:—

Parish.	Deposits.	With- drawals.	Gain.	Loss.
	£	£	£	£
Kingston	87,878	93,017	—	5,139
St. Andrew	944	796	148	—
St. Thomas	4,353	5,758	—	1,405
Portland	10,036	12,507	—	2,471
St. Mary	7,975	9,242	—	1,267
St. Ann	6,515	6,233	282	—
Trelawny	3,826	4,189	—	363
St. James	10,461	11,955	—	1,494
Hanover	3,744	3,620	124	—
Westmoreland	4,684	8,780	—	4,096
St. Elizabeth... ..	2,994	5,899	—	2,905
Manchester	6,100	8,045	—	1,945
Clarendon	4,932	5,423	—	489
St. Catherine	7,502	7,760	52	—

285. These reductions in accumulated savings doubtless reflect the continuance of economic depression, but it is satisfactory to note at least that the amount of the withdrawals on ordinary account was less by £14,922 than in the previous year.

286. The Savings Bank is directly profitable to the Colonial Government, the excess of interest on investments over interest paid to depositors and all costs of management amounted in the year under review to £3,406, the income and expenditure being as shown below:—

Income.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Interest on Investments	16,365	15 6	Management ...	2,416	16 2
			Interest on Deposits	10,143	0 0
			Profit ...	3,405	18 11
	16,365	15 6		16,365	15 6

VI.—CRIME, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Police Statistics.

287. No special feature or exceptional condition is disclosed by the Criminal statistics of the year. The number of persons apprehended or summoned before the magistrates by the police was 27,399, comparing with 25,661 in 1900-1901 and 26,184 in the previous year. The total number of convictions in the Circuit Courts was 128, comparing with 134 in 1900-1901, and in the Resident Magistrates' Courts 4,166, comparing with 4,618. The summary convictions before magistrates in Petty Sessions were 12,319 against 11,339 the previous year. Of the summary convictions 1,904 were for offences against the person (1,878 the previous year), 621, compared with 548, for offences against property other than prædial larceny, and the remainder for other offences, principally disorderly conduct, obscene and abusive language, cruelty to animals, and offences against Highway Laws.

288. Of the convictions in the Circuit Courts and Resident Magistrates' Courts 276 were for offences against the person (85 less than last year), 1,137 for prædial larceny (52 more than last year), 1,299 for other offences against property, comparing with 1,415 and 1,382 against 1,690 for other offences.

Absence of Serious Crime.

289. There is no general prevalence of, or propensity to, serious crime in the Island. On the other hand, there are certain persistent sources of trouble in the community, especially,—

“Habitual Criminals.”

(1.) A class of habitual and incorrigible criminals who pass in and out of the prisons and live by theft. There were in 1901-1902 1,244 re-convictions; of these 534 were second convictions, 279 third convictions, and 431 convictions for the fourth time or more.

290. There were in this year 1,493 habitual criminals under police surveillance; 1,056 of them were sent to the Penitentiary during the year and 870 were discharged from the Penitentiary. Of this class, however, only 125 were under obligation to report themselves to the police. The Inspector-General considers that if the law providing for police supervision in this method were more generally put into force by the Judges and the Resident Magistrate there would be a substantial decrease in crime. Criminals have a great objection to being compelled to report themselves periodically at a police-station. Those who were under this obligation gave the police little or no trouble during the year, and a sentence of two years' imprisonment with three or four years' police supervision would probably have a better effect on a criminal than three or four years without supervision and would be cheaper to the community.

Prædial Larceny.

(2.) The inveterate propensity to prædial larceny. There was a small increase in the number of convictions for this offence, due probably to increased vigilance and activity on the part of the police and the district constables, but there seems to have been, on the whole, a decrease in its prevalence during the year, though not in all districts. It appears, however, evident that, where the activity of the police has been supported by resolute administration of the law on the part of the Resident Magistrates, much has been done to abate the evil which, apart from these influences, tends to fluctuate inversely with the prosperity of the country and is less heard of in favourable seasons. It appears to have been most prevalent in the Parish of Manchester, where continued depression has been reported, owing to the low price of coffee.

Rowdyism.

(3.) An element of silly brutishness, exhibited in disorderly conduct, in the propensity to the use of violent, abusive, and filthy language, especially marked in Kingston but prevalent

all over the Island, and in cruelty and callousness in dealing with animals of all sorts. No less than 7,117 cases in the Courts were for disorderly behaviour or bad language. On the other hand, objectionable as are these propensities, it may be a question whether their prevalence justifies so large a tax on the time of the Courts and the police as is entailed by the number of summonses applied for on the most trifling provocation. It may be noted that intemperance in drink has little or nothing to do with the matter. Intoxication is rare, only 37 persons were summoned during the year for being "drunk and disorderly."

Police Force.

291. The allowed strength of the police during the year was 775—17 officers, 137 sub-officers, and 621 constables; at the close of the year the force was 26 below its authorised strength. The district constabulary have been well reported of in certain parishes. The Inspector-General states it would have been quite impossible for the heavy duties of the police to have been carried out without their assistance. He considers that an addition to the numbers of the regular force is requisite to enable it to meet the demands upon its services. It is unquestionable that these demands are increasing, and that the determination of the Inspector-General and his officers that the law shall be enforced to the best of their ability is continually finding wider occupation. For example, not only was the number of police cases augmented this year, as stated above, but, in carrying out the general patrol and other services performed, the constabulary travelled 720,445 miles in 1901-1902 against 671,845 in 1900-1901.

Prisons.

292. The prisons of the Island are under the supervision of the Inspector-General of Police. These consist of the General Penitentiary for prisoners whose term of sentence is one year or more, and the St. Catherine District Prison for short term prisoners and persons awaiting trial, and certain local lock-ups for sentences of fourteen days or less.

General Penitentiary.

293. The daily average number of prisoners in the General Penitentiary was 663 against 695 for the previous year. There were 596 prisoners in custody there on the 31st March, 1902, against 637 on the 31st March, 1901.

294. The committals to the General Penitentiary during the year were 1,259, 60 more than in 1900-1901; to the St. Catherine District Prison (for short term prisoners and prisoners awaiting trial) 2,825 against 2,569 in the previous year. 1,003 persons were committed to local lock-ups for terms of imprisonment of 14 days and under.

St. Catherine's Prison.

295. The daily average of prisoners in the St. Catherine District Prison was 527 against 491 the previous year; the number in custody on the 31st March was 514 against 596. Altogether there were 1,110 prisoners at the close of the year against 1,233 at the beginning.

296. The deaths in the General Penitentiary were 30 against 25. The deaths in the St. Catherine District Prison were 36; in the previous year 22. There were no executions of capital punishment. The sanitary state of the prisons was satisfactory.

Expenditure and Earnings.—Employment of Prisoners.

297. The gross expenditure for these prisons during the year was £18,422, and the cash earnings of the produce of the labour of the prisoners £4,941, leaving a net cost of £14,081 or £11 16s. 8d. per prisoner per annum (on the average daily number). The total estimated value of labour not paid for in money was £8,943. This labour was employed in progressing with the new buildings at the St. Catherine District Prison, where there were erected during the year a kitchen with scullery, bake-house and stores, a work-shed and stores, quarters for two principal warders, alterations at the old Spanish Town Gaol to provide for accommodation for constables, office for the Superintendent and staff, and store rooms.

298. Prisoners from the General Penitentiary were employed in making extensive improvements at the Customs premises in Kingston, draining the yard, raising its level and the floor of the rum store, and making a sea-wall to the foreshore. About 1,600 cubic yards of metal, marl, broken bricks, gravel, sand, and other materials used in this work were supplied by the Penitentiary. Female prisoners did the washing not only of the prison but of the Public Hospital and Lunatic Asylum.

299. The prisoners were otherwise employed as carpenters, coopers, tin-smiths, wheelwrights, masons, shoemakers, tailors, blacksmiths, mat-makers, brick-makers, upholsterers, painters, printers, bakers, cooks, quarriers, lime-burners, and stone-breakers. At St. Catherine's Prison they were also employed in cultivating land, the value of the produce raised being £200. Arrangements have been made for purchasing 86 acres of land adjoining the prison, on which this form of employment will be largely extended.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS, &c.

(A.) POPULATION.

300. The population of the Colony on the 31st March, 1902, is estimated to have been 770,242. No census of the population was taken in the year 1901 owing to the need for economy, and the foregoing estimate of numbers has been arrived at by adding to the number of the population as estimated on the 31st March, 1901, the difference, 14,512, between the births and deaths registered during the year. The figure for the earlier date had been arrived at by a similar process founded on the results of the Census of 1891, and, it may be added, was framed without regard to the number of 8,785 persons who the Registrar-General in his Report for 1900-1901 stated had arrived in the Island in excess of the recorded departures during ten years' period. If account is taken of these the present population may be estimated in round numbers, at close upon 780,000.

Increase.

301. The natural increase of 14,512 in the year 1901-1902 represents on this basis a rate of 19·0 per 1,000 persons living. In the ten years ending 1900-1901 the mean rate of such increase was 17·0 per 1,000. The mean population on the 30th September, 1901, is estimated by the Registrar-General at 763,545, and this is the number on which the birth, death, and marriage rates for the year are calculated.

Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

302. The following table compares the births, deaths, and marriages in 1901-1902 and 1900-1901. The rates per thousand are given in italics:—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1900-1901	26,869 <i>35·7</i>	16,243 <i>21·6</i>	3,221 <i>4·2</i>
1901-1902	31,268 <i>41·0</i>	16,756 <i>21·9</i>	3,202 <i>4·2</i>

303. There thus appears, as compared with the preceding year, an increase in births of 4,399 in number and 5·3 in the rate per 1,000, and an increase in deaths of 0·3 in the rate per 1,000. The latter figure is so small that the death-rate may be regarded as stationary. In the marriages there is a small actual decrease

of 19 in number, which leaves the rate practically unchanged at 4.1 per 1,000. The previous year, however, showed a decrease as compared with that preceding it of 546 marriages in number and 0.8 in the rate per 1,000. If the prevailing depression was accountable for the decrease in 1900-1901 the figures above given would show that it had at least proved practically to be no worse in 1901-1902, and an examination of the quarterly returns of marriages shows that, whereas in the December quarter of the year 1900-1901 the number was 50 less than in the corresponding quarter of the year before, in the March quarter of 1901-1902 the number had advanced to within 6 of that in the same quarter of 1900-1901. It is doubtful, however, whether in the case of the majority of marriages in Jamaica increasing prosperity is so large a factor in the increase of marriage as it is in some other countries.

Illegitimacy.

304. The percentage of illegitimate births in the year now under review was 64.0. This is a higher percentage than any in the preceding ten years, which, beginning at 60.6 in 1891-92 and remaining at about that figure for the next four years, have since 1896-1897 shown an almost continuous increase. During the last four years of depression in the Island, therefore, although there is to be traced to some extent the customary falling-off in the marriage rate which might be expected under such circumstances, there has not only been no corresponding falling off in the number of births but there has been an increase proportionately greater in those of illegitimate parentage. These results are more clearly shown in the following table in respect of the five years ended 1900-1901 and the single year 1901-1902:—

	Yearly Mean for five years ended				1901-02	
	1895-96.		1900-01.			
	Number.	Rate per 1,000.	Number.	Rate per 1,000.	Number.	Rate per 1,000.
		Per cent.		Per cent.		Per cent.
Births	25,745	38.4	28,257	38.8	31,268	41.0
Deaths	14,670	21.9	16,034	22.1	16,756	21.9
Marriages	3,472	5.1	3,207	4.4	3,202	4.2
Illegitimate births	15,613	63.6	17,705	62.3	—	64.0

* Of total births.

Illiteracy.

305. The percentage of illiterate persons among those married during the year under review was 44·00, in the preceding year it was 44·6, while in 1899-1900 it was 46·40, thus showing, although not very markedly, perhaps, the continuous decrease to be expected with the advance of education. The bridegrooms show the greater amount of literacy.

Death Rate.

306. The death rate, 21·9 per 1,000, does not in 1901-1902 vary much from the mean of the two preceding five-year periods. During the ten years the minimum rate was 20·9 in 1892-1893, and the maximum rate 23·0 in 1897-1898.

Cayman Islands Statistics.

307. In the Dependency of the Cayman Islands the births, deaths, and marriages were respectively 194, 44, and 24, which give respectively rates of 33·3, 7·5, and 4·1 per 1,000 of population.

308. In the matter of legitimate births these Islands are far ahead of Jamaica. Their percentage of illegitimate births stands at about one-seventh of that prevailing in this Island.

(B.) GENERAL HEALTH.

309. The reports of the Medical Officer on the general health of the Island present nothing new or remarkable. There was no epidemic disease. A few cases of small-pox were imported, but these were promptly and effectually isolated and the disease stamped out before it had time to spread. The most prevalent forms of illness were malarial fever, chiefly of a benign type, pulmonary and rheumatic affections, digestive disorders, and skin complaints. There is nothing to be added to what has been written year after year as to the continuing causes of these diseases in the careless and insanitary habits of the majority of the population. The infantile death rate maintains its high level directly owing to bad nutrition. Milk is needed, and the people have not learnt either the need nor how to supply it. This is work for the Agricultural Society.

310. In this Island, as in most other West Indian Colonies, there is practically no characteristic general danger of health except malarial fever, and this in Jamaica is not realised as a sufficiently serious matter to stimulate much practical interest in the new methods that are being devised for its extinction by attacks on the malarial mosquito.

311. The dangerous infectious diseases that continually afflict temperate countries—small-pox, diphtheria, typhoid, scarlet fever, measles, whooping-cough, bronchitis, influenza—are comparatively rare or are experienced only mildly. Yellow fever has for long been practically unknown and extinct except when old burial grounds and filth deposits have been disturbed at Up Park Camp and Port Royal. On the other hand the general neglect of hygiene, in housing, ventilation, clothing, food, water, and cleanliness of surroundings is such that in any less naturally favourable climate diseases would infallibly decimate the population. Dirt, ignorance, indolence, and incontinence are, it cannot be too often repeated, the chief sources of ill-health in Jamaica. For cleanly, intelligent, healthily occupied persons it offers, conversely, exceedingly healthy conditions.

(C.) CLIMATE.

- (1) *Rainfall*; (2) *Temperature*; (3) *Direction and Force of Wind*.

Variety of Climate.

312. Jamaica being a mountainous Island, with numerous ranges of hills rising in the extreme eastern portion to 7,423 feet in the Blue Mountain Peak, and averaging 2,000 to 3,000 feet in the central and western portions, has a considerable variety of climate. The temperature of course decreases everywhere with the elevation in Jamaica; this decrease has been found to be at much the same rate as in other countries, namely, about one degree for every 300 feet.

Rainfall.

313. As regards the rainfall, the Island is divided in respect of the amount of fall into four divisions and in respect of seasons of fall into two. In all four divisions the May and October rains, or "seasons" as they are locally termed, are strongly marked. In the north-eastern and northern divisions which, roughly, embrace the northern half of the Island, extending, however, a little round to the south in the mountainous east and stretching not quite the whole of the Island's length to the west, there are in addition winter rains in December, January, and February. In the remainder of the Island, consisting of the west central and southern divisions, in addition to the usual "seasons" above referred to, there are as a rule summer rains in July and August. At times in the drier months of the year there are isolated localities where no rain falls, but at the majority of places there is never a month without some rain. Kingston, the chief town, is one of the driest places, and Port Antonio, only about 30 miles distant in a straight line but with

the Blue Mountain Range intervening, is one of the wettest, as far as actual fall goes. Visitors to the latter place, however, owing chiefly to the manner in which the rain falls there, do not experience the inconvenience from the showers that might, from the record, be expected.

314. In amount of fall the north-eastern division stands first with isolated districts sparsely settled where the total exceeds 200 inches. In such districts we have a good example of the effect of the vapour laden trade winds infringing on high mountain ranges.

315. The west central region comes next in elevation, coolness, and rainfall. The northern is largely an elevated undulating table-land of limestone ridges and valleys; the southern division contains the principal plains in the Island. The two last-mentioned divisions are comparatively dry.

Wind.

316. The prevailing winds are N.E. on the north side and S.E. on the south side of the Island; the trade winds being in each case partially deflected by the influence of the land into true sea breezes while in the centre of the Island and at considerable elevations the wind maintains the generally easterly direction of the trade wind.

Temperature.

317. The north central and southern divisions are the driest and possess a real tropical temperature in the plains, especially those on the southern sea-board. Although Jamaica is between 17° and 18° north latitude, the temperature over two-thirds of its area, owing to elevation, is, except in the middle of the day, say from July to September, soft and pleasant, and shows little variation throughout the year. It is said to resemble that of Southern California.

318. The average Island rainfall for the past three decades, 1870-1879, 1880-1889, and 1890-1899, is recorded at 67·41, 66·54, and 76·15 inches respectively. In 1901-1902 the average rainfall for the whole Island was 80·96 inches, as shown in the table below, which also gives the figures for each division as compared with those for the previous year:—

Divisions.		1901.	1900.
		Inches.	Inches.
North Eastern	...	107·88	96·91
Northern	...	64·18	50·67
West Central	...	87·31	79·84
Southern	...	64·50	51·15
The Island		80·96	69·65

319. The rainfall for May, 1901, was below the average, but the belated "seasons" fell in June, in which month the deficiency was more than made up. The October "seasons" also did not fall in their usual volume in most parts of the Island, but the balance again was redressed in the following months. The autumn, speaking generally, was a rainy one. The total fall for the Island for the year was about 7 per cent. above the average. There was very continuous rainfall and a total considerably above the average in the latter half of the year in St. Mary's and the adjacent Northside parishes.

320. The following figures showing the Island rainfall for the past 36 years, which have been extracted from the Weather Report for December, 1901, are of interest. In the first year, 1866, there were about 50 rainfall relations, and in the last, 1901, about 138, so that the results for the different years are not strictly comparable, but for most practical purposes they may be regarded as showing correctly the variations in the fall of rain during the years mentioned:—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	Inches.		Inches.
1866	53.65	1884	56.90
1867	64.47	1885	59.86
1868	67.74	1886	90.61
1869	55.37	1887	70.66
1870	89.43	1888	72.11
1871	50.09	1889	74.15
1872	45.18	1890	64.42
1873	63.06	1891	84.70
1874	64.94	1892	72.98
1875	52.54	1893	86.49
1876	71.35	1894	75.39
1877	68.40	1895	71.62
1878	76.42	1896	68.61
1879	83.84	1897	77.59
1880	55.44	1898	73.84
1881	63.60	1899	85.82
1882	57.87	1900	69.65
1883	59.26	1901	80.96

321. At the close of the year there was issued by Mr. Maxwell Hall, the Government Meteorologist, an interesting Weather Report dealing with temperatures at Kingston and the connection between the frequency of sun spots, the mean maximum temperature and the rainfall in Jamaica.

322. In this report it was shown that a satisfactory formula for arriving at the mean temperature of any place in Jamaica is the following:—

$$\frac{M + m + 7 \text{ a.m.} + 3 \text{ p.m.} - 2^{\circ}}{4}$$

When M represents the maximum temperature m is the minimum temperature, and 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. mean the 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. temperatures. If this formula is applied to the 18 years, 1881-1898, the mean temperature is shown to be $78^{\circ}8$, varying from $75^{\circ}7$ in February to $81^{\circ}6$ in July. From the above-mentioned report I may quote the following figures:—The mean maximum temperature at Kingston is $87^{\circ}5$, varying from $85^{\circ}6$ in February and March to $89^{\circ}5$ in July and August. The mean minimum temperature is $70^{\circ}8$, varying from $67^{\circ}0$ in January and February to $73^{\circ}5$ in September.

323. The close of the financial year under review marked the severance of the connection of Mr. Maxwell Hall, M.A., F.R.A.S., F.R.Met. Soc., with what there remained of the Weather Service Establishment, which he established in the year 1880. Owing to the necessity for economy, this service had been partially cut down three years previously, and for the same reason, in the year under report, it was decided that the compilation of the existing Weather Report should be undertaken without further expense by the Island Chemist's Department. In effecting this change the Government expressed its recognition of Mr. Hall's valuable services in the cause of meteorology in Jamaica, a recognition which had also been accorded by his fellow-workers in the scientific world in Great Britain and the United States of America.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

324. The following tables show the revenue and expenditure for postal and telegraph services in each of the three years ended 31st March, 1900, 1901, and 1902 (shillings and pence omitted):—

Revenue.

Year	Postages.			Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total Postal Revenue.	Telegraph Revenue.	Grand Total.
	Packet.	Inland.	Total.						
1899-1900	£ 3,649	£ 16,476	£ 20,125	£ 379	£ 634	£ 157	£ 21,297	£ 5,630	£ 26,927
1900-1901	£ 3,755	£ 17,369	£ 21,124	£ 384	£ 617	£ 87	£ 22,212	£ 4,715	£ 26,927
1901-1902	£ 4,383	£ 17,954	£ 22,336	£ 446	£ 615	£ 113	£ 23,510	£ 5,010	£ 28,520

Expenditure.

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.			Services.	Total Postal Expenditure.	Telegraph Expenditure.*	Grand Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.	Proportion of Royal Mail Contract with Imperial Government.				
1899-1900	£ 5,485	£ 2,995	£ 9,827	£ 2,419	£ 5,140	£ 2,986	£ 28,582	£ 8,721	£ 37,573
1900-1901	£ 5,915	£ 2,956	£ 8,511	£ 2,508	£ 5,140	£ 3,360	£ 28,390	£ 8,592	£ 36,982
1901-1902	£ 5,668	£ 2,951	£ 8,055	£ 2,258	£ 2,177	£ 4,409	£ 25,517	£ 8,368	£ 33,915

* Includes expenditure on maintenance of telegraph lines by the Public Works Department.

The Postal Revenue shows an increase of £1,298 over that of 1900-1901; the Telegraph Revenue an increase of £296. The totals include the value of official telegrams sent, but not that of official postage services, which the Postmaster-General estimates at £2,500 a year.

325. The receipts from packet postages increased by £628; those from Inland postages by £585. The total receipts from packet postages (at 1*d.* per half-ounce for British and Colonial letters) amounted to £4,389 as against £4,832 in 1898-1899, the last year of the 2½*d.* rate. The loss incurred by the change of rate is thus within measurable distance of being made up. The increase in postal receipts stimulated by the improvement of communications with Great Britain and America reflects an improvement in business.

Correspondence.

326. The total number of postcards and letters estimated to have passed through the Post Office in the year was 5,424,814, as against 5,239,083 during the preceding year. The number of registered articles of mail matter included in the total was 236,921 as against 211,184. There was practically no loss or miscarriage of such articles.

Foreign Mails.

327. The total number of foreign mails made up during the year was 1,606, the number received 2,205, showing a total increase of 591 on the number despatched and received during 1900-1901.

328. The direct fortnightly mail service between Kingston (Jamaica) and Bristol (England), which was begun on the 16th of February, 1901, has been carried out during the year with, as a rule, commendable punctuality, and, together with the service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which has also performed its contract in a satisfactory manner, has given the Colony weekly postal communication outwards and inwards.

329. The steamers of the United Fruit Company, certain of which are subsidised as mail steamers by the United States Government, as well as those of the Atlas Line (now absorbed in the Hamburg American Company's fleet), have as usual been made use of for the exchange of mails between the United States of America and Jamaica, and with the United Kingdom *via* the United States, America.

330. Messrs. Pickford and Black's steamers, subsidised by the Government of Canada, have continued the monthly mail service between Jamaica, Turks Islands, Bermuda, and Halifax.

Mail Subsidies.

331. For the conveyance of ocean mails this Colony paid during the year—

	£	s.	d.
Contribution to subsidy, Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.	2,177	6	8
Proportion of postage to Imperial Post Office.	1,300	0	0
Transit dues paid to other countries	156	16	2
Gratuities for mails by non-contract vessels.	801	4	1

Total ...	£4,435	6	11
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The annual contribution to be paid by this Government in respect of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's subsidy during the continuance of the existing contract has not yet been assessed by His Majesty's Government. Under the former contract this contribution was £5,140 per annum, but in consideration of the diminution in the amount of correspondence to be carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in consequence of the competition of the Direct Imperial Line, it will now be substantially less. A further abatement of £500 a year is to be made upon the amount that would be payable on such assessment, in consideration of the alteration of the route of the steamers since the present contract was made. The Royal Mail Company's steamer now touches at Trinidad on its journeys between Barbados and Jamaica each way, and is accordingly timed to reach the Island later and to leave it earlier than under the schedule of the original contract. On the other hand, some part of the subsidy of £20,000 a year payable to the Direct Line must be regarded as in respect of postal services, more especially having regard to the reduction effected by its establishment in the corresponding payment to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and in the amount paid for letters sent by the United States, America, which in the previous year was £1,046 2s. 4d. The diversion to the Direct Line of letters formerly sent by this route saved £245, notwithstanding a presumable increase in the number of letters, the final destination of which was in the United States or Canada.

Inland Mails.

332. The Inland conveyance of mails has been carried on at a cost of £7,447, as against £7,681 last year, including the payment of £2,700 to the Railway Department for transport. Much of the Inland mail carriage is effected by the Public Works Department which, having depôts and mule stables in all the parishes, has been able within recent years to take over at a

considerable saving much of the services formerly performed by contract. The coastal steamer of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is also employed for conveying mail matter.

333. The mail coaches earned during the year £218 for passenger fares and £574 for the carriage of parcels; the amount of the passenger fares, less 10 per cent., is paid to the contractors for their services.

334. At the end of the year, there were 153 District Post Offices, as against 147 at the beginning. The policy of transferring District Post Offices to railway stations and appointing the station agents to be District Postmasters is being carried out wherever possible.

Money Orders.

335. The total number of money orders drawn on other countries during the year was 12,740, against 11,431 in the previous year; the amount, however, decreased from £32,216 to £30,098. The orders drawn by other countries on Jamaica were 4,001 for £10,327, against 3,498 for £9,366 in 1900-1901.

Postal Orders.

336. The face value of the postal orders sold for internal remittances was £30,356 against £30,339 in the previous year, and the number was also almost unchanged.

Nett Decrease in Expenditure.

337. This year shows altogether a nett decrease of £2,873 in the expenditure on postal services, which is accounted for by the reduction of the mail subsidy to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Telegraphs.

338. The Telegraph Department dealt with 91,898 messages against 85,052 in the previous year, and earned £296 more. The working expenses of the Department were £55 less. The total cost, including the maintenance of lines by the Public Works Department, was £8,398, the total receipts, £5,010, showing a loss of £3,387 as the nett cost of the services of this Department.

Parcel Post.

339. The parcel post showed a continued development. The parcels received from abroad numbered 14,138, those despatched 5,216—a total increase of 1,810 on last year. Customs duties to the amount of £2,716 were received on inward parcels. Notwithstanding the notification on the address forms, many senders of parcels still appear unable to resist the temptation

to endeavour to defraud the Revenue, either by understating values or by sending dutiable articles undeclared through the ordinary post. The Department on the whole shows a healthy advance in the services and economy of all its branches.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Works.

340. No special Public Works of great magnitude or importance were carried on for the Government during the year. Expenditure from Loan Funds for public buildings was still kept in suspense owing to shortness of funds, but the buildings at St. Catherine District Prison were proceeded with at a cost of £769, the labour being supplied by the inmates. Extensive improvements were also made in the Customs yard and its foreshore by prison labour, as recorded in my report on the Prison Departments. A new laboratory for the Island Chemist was built at Hope and was occupied by the Chemist before the close of the year. A portion of the old boiling house at Hope Gardens was altered so as to provide quarters for apprentices in agriculture. Expenditure of £632 was also incurred in providing a system of lights for Kingston Harbour. Other works were generally of the character of maintenance.

Roads.

341. The maintenance of main roads was in some parishes somewhat expensive, especially in Portland, St. Mary's, and St. Ann's, owing to the heavy and continuous rainfall of the autumn months. The average cost per mile for maintenance was £24 3s. 2d., or £2 12s. 8d. per mile more than last year. The highest rate per mile was £58 3s. 10d. for St. Mary, the lowest £14 8s. 11d. for St. Elizabeth. The cost of making good extraordinary damages caused by floods in the parishes of St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Portland, St. Mary, and St. Catherine was £5,564.

342. The roads in St. Mary's parish suffered particularly throughout the year from frequent and heavy rain and floods. At the close of the year they were not in good condition, and special attention and expenditure has since been devoted to them. The rainfall between the 1st of September, 1900, and the 31st of January, 1901, was equal to the ordinary year's average. During this period of 153 days it rained at Richmond on 114. At the same time the traffic on these roads was unprecedentedly heavy, the shipments of bananas from the parish showing an increase of 36 per cent. and of cocoanuts of 42 per cent. on those of the previous year.

Vere Irrigation Scheme.

343. The Director of Public Works was engaged during the year in supervising the execution of the Vere Irrigation Works for the Vere Irrigation Commissioners. The scheme for these works comprises the head works or dam and sluice on the Milk River at St. Jago, in Lower Clarendon, to divert the water of the river into the main canal which runs in a south-easterly direction across the plain of Vere, and is intended to carry about 6,000 cubic yards of water per hour. Between St. Jago and the crossing of the Rio Minho at Dry River Estate, the canal will be carried over nine gullies by aqueducts, consisting of steel troughing carried on abutments and piers of cement concrete. At Dry River it will be carried under the Rio Minho by a steel syphon 650 feet long and 2 feet 6 inches in diameter, and thence will continue, crossing four more gullies by means of aqueducts to Raymond's Estate, discharging into an impounding reservoir to be created there by the erection of a dam across the valley of the Raymond's Gully. The total length of the main canal will be 16 miles 7 chains, and that of the aqueducts about 2,000 feet.

344. The reservoir at Raymond's, which, in addition to the canal water collects a large amount of surplus drainage, is calculated to hold about 4,610,000 cubic yards, equivalent to about a month's supply at the rate of 5,000 cubic yards per hour or to the amount required for irrigating 5,000 acres at one cubic yard per hour, which is approximately the amount required in the irrigation of sugar cultivation on the estates to be supplied. Distribution channels for the supply of water to the estates west of the Rio Minho will be taken from the main canal, and another one for the estates east of the river will commence at Raymond's dam, branching off in several directions when the supplies are needed.

345. The carrying capacity of the canal is calculated at 6,000 cubic yards of water per hour. Guarantees have been given for the purchase of 4,825 cubic yards, of which 1,405 cubic yards are on the west side of the Rio Minho, and 3,420 cubic yards on the east side.

346. The works on the main canal, the head works at St. Jago, and the dam at Raymond's were let out by contract and were commenced in October. Owing to the unsettled state of the weather from October to the end of December, the progress on the works was considerably delayed. At the close of the year the head works at St. Jago were nearing completion, and considerable progress had been made on the earthwork of the main canal, and the syphon under the Rio Minho had been laid.

347. The dam at Raymond's was nearly half completed at the close of the year. It consists of a solid concrete wall, 575 feet long, 35 feet deep, and 24 feet broad in its widest part.

348. The completion of this undertaking will, it is hoped, render the splendid sugar estates of Vere independent of the capricious rainfall which frequently fails in that district.

X.—RAILWAY.

TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT.

349. The traffic returns of the railway for the year show, compared with those of 1900-1901, increases and decreases under the following classes of receipts:

	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
Goods, Cattle	5,895	—
Passengers	393	—
Prince's Wharf Dues	—	633
Miscellaneous	2,002	—

Goods Traffic.

350. The total bulk of goods carried increased from 88,540 tons to 100,764 tons; the principal increases being in coffee, 801 tons; sugar; rum, 468 tons; grass; hay, 1,005 tons; and bananas, 12,211 tons.

There were decreases of 1,619 tons in the carriage of oranges, 539 in firewood, and 1,186 in general merchandise.

The earnings from the carriage of bananas increased by £7,039, from coffee by £831, and from dyewoods (other than logwood) £623. The falling off in receipts from oranges was £2,101, and from general merchandise £1,299.

Passenger Traffic.

351. The number of passengers carried increased from 281,408 in 1900-1901 to 291,178 in the year under review, the increases being—

	£
First class tickets	5,387
Third class tickets	2,356
Season tickets	2,027

The increase in the first class travelling reflects the development of the tourist traffic. It will be noticed that the increase on the third class traffic (357,412 to 359,768) was scarcely noticeable. This reflects, doubtless, the continued scarcity of money

during most of the year, and may be expected to improve with improved prosperity, though travelling by railway is not in this Island so popular as an amusement or convenience as it is in some countries.

Wharf Receipts.

352. The decrease in the receipts from Prince's Wharf is due to the transfer of the receipts for shunting bananas to the credit of the Account of Goods Receipts. The rate for shunting was also reduced by two-thirds, a concession which left no less than £1,877 in the pockets of the shippers as compared with what they would have paid under the old rate.

Expenditure.

353. The expenditure under the head of Traffic and Prince's Wharf was reduced from £18,486 to £16,551 for the year.

Way and Works.

354. The total expenditure on Way and Works charged to the Annual Account in 1901-1902 was £28,168, against £31,921 in 1900-1901, a decrease of £3,753. The cost per mile of track was £153 against £173.

The total spent on Way and Works, including expenditure charged to the account of the Railway Improvement Loan, was £47,242.

Re-sleeping.

355. The re-sleeping of the track with hardwood ties in the place of creosoted pine or cypress ties has been actively proceeded with, 84,342 hardwood sleepers having been laid in the 12 months. All these sleepers were native hardwood, mostly bullet tree; the payment for them was kept in the Island and they will last many years longer than the imported sleepers.

Track.

356. The general condition of the track has been greatly improved during the year both by work done at the charge of Loan Account and by more efficient maintenance. Slips have given less trouble than in former years. One bridge, over Bower's Gully, has been replaced by a stronger structure. The tunnels have received all necessary attention, and there are at present no indications to warrant any apprehension of further serious trouble with them. Native hardwood poles are being substituted for pitch pine in all repairs and renewals of the telegraph line.

Wharves.

357. The total expenditure on wharves, charged to Maintenance, was £494, including £390 spent on the reconstruction of the wharf at Montego Bay, for the shipping of bananas, &c. £213 was spent on wharves from Loan Funds, including £150 for the Port Antonio Wharf. Extensive repairs of Prince's Wharf, to be charged to Loan Fund, were put in hand about the end of the year.

Compensation.

358. £229 was paid for compensation, three-quarters of this amount being for stock killed on the line.

Loan Expenditure on Way and Works.

359. The total expenditure on Way and Works charged to Loan Account was £29,111, the principal items being—

	£
Strengthening line	1,933
Replacing rusted rails	2,167
Ballasting	982
Fencing, gates, &c.	1,854
New sidings	1,097

Locomotive Department.

360. A large amount of efficient work was done in this Department during the year, both in improving the workshops and in repairing and bringing into sound condition the locomotives and rolling stock already on the railway. The workshops are now in a creditable and efficient state so far as their situation and equipment permits. The locomotive power has been greatly bettered by the economical use of existing stock and materials, and great reductions have been made in the consumption of oil, waste, and other running stores.

This has been effected by careful instruction to the drivers and firemen on the part of the Locomotive Superintendent.

New Rolling Stock.

361. Three new English engines, built by Messrs. Kitson and Company, of Leeds, to designs by Mr. Elliott Cooper, were imported and erected during the year. Two American passenger cars and 24 freight cars were added to the rolling stock. At the close of the year there were 42 passenger cars and 298

freight cars available for traffic, and other freight cars were under order or in course of construction. The locomotive power was sufficient to deal with the demands on it.

362. The condition of the railway and its rolling stock and the economy of its maintenance and administration, as well as the amount of the service rendered by it to public traffic, have improved during the year in a marked and most satisfactory manner. There is still room for improvement in the facilities offered for traffic, in punctuality of trains, and some other respects. These defects may, it is hoped, be remedied as the demand for railway service increases and becomes more remunerative. At present convenience has to be sacrificed to economy, and many of the deficiencies are due to the necessity for running mixed freight and passenger trains. Unfortunately, owing to steep grades and sharp curves on the western section of the railway no heavy traffic over that section can ever be carried at cheap rates without some loss.

XI.—MILITARY.

IMPERIAL FORCES.

363. The strength of the Imperial troops in the Colony on the 31st March was 1,866 of all ranks. During the year the detachment of the Leinster Regiment stationed at Newcastle was replaced by a detachment of the Lancashire Fusiliers.

The amount expended by the Imperial Government for the Regular Forces was £127,500.

MILITIA.

Local Forces.

364. The strength of the Militia at the close of the year was 763, of which number 169 were artillery and 589 infantry, while the remaining 5 belonged to the permanent staff.

Training.

365. The annual training was carried out this year under conditions different from those which have hitherto obtained. It has been usual for the artillery to proceed for 12 days to Port Royal, and for the infantry to be encamped for a similar period at Up Park Camp, which lies on the outskirts of Kingston.

This year, however, while the artillery proceeded to Port Royal in order that they might go through their course of instruction on the heavy guns there, the infantry and a battery of artillery were sent down with the Imperial troops to a distant part of the Island, where field manœuvres and field firing were carried out with marked success. The training was of great benefit to the troops which took part in it. All arrangements were carried out as if the forces were on active service, and the surrounding country which had been specially selected with this view lent itself to extensive operations of an instructive character. The Report of the Officer Commanding the Troops on the work done by the Militia and on their general efficiency was on the whole highly favourable, and testified to the increasing usefulness of the Colonial Forces.

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Period of Depression.

366. For six years, including the year upon which I have reported in this despatch, the Island of Jamaica has been suffering from agricultural and commercial depression, and the public finances have been embarrassed accordingly. There has been very heavy retrenchment in public expenditure, and the limit has been reached in this direction, beyond which economy could not go without either a general reduction of the salaries of all established public servants or a withdrawal of public services upon the maintenance of which the community urgently insists—Education, Judiciary, Police, Medical Service, &c. At the same time the failure of the Jamaica Railway Company and the provision of a subsidy of £20,000 to the Direct Line have imposed new and heavy burdens on the Treasury, which have had to be met by taxation at a time when the country was ill able to bear it.

Improved Prospects.

Two years ago, however, in reporting on the Blue Book for 1899-1900 I expressed my belief from observation of what was being done in the country, that, with favourable seasons, the general condition of affairs must soon improve; and in introducing the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year now current I stated my conviction that in the matter of public finance the Government had climbed to the top of the hill, and

that henceforth we should have a much easier road to travel. This expectation, criticised as too sanguine at the time, has been fully justified. The exports of Island produce, since the 31st of March last, have continued to show an increasing excess over the exports of the same period in 1901. The Revenue shows corresponding elasticity, and I am under no apprehension that a very substantial surplus will not be realised.

British Fruit Trade.

367. Were it not for the as yet undisputed cloud of the Foreign Bounties, the prospects of the sugar industry in those districts that are suited for it would be thoroughly sound in Jamaica. The fruit industry is making rapid strides, and we have reason for confidence that the markets of the United Kingdom will before long come into appreciable rivalry with that of the United States in their demand for our bananas and perhaps also our citrus fruit. Since the close of the year Messrs. Elders, Fyffes and Company, who conduct the fruit business associated with the Direct Line, have made arrangements with the United Fruit Company to load their steamers. It is too early to criticise the effects of this arrangement but there can be no doubt that it immensely enhances the probability of the banana trade with the United Kingdom being efficiently handled and the market there established. It may be regrettable that an English organisation cannot manage the fruit business as well as an American Trust, but the circumstance is hardly astonishing seeing that the Jamaica fruit export has been almost entirely built up by the energy and capacity of the predecessors of the United Fruit Company.

The Direct Line.

368. I have already (paragraph 114) referred to the institution of the Direct West India mail service as a feature of special interest in the history of the year, and have dealt with the extent to which it has prepared the way for the establishment of an important fruit trade with England; but the services which this enterprise has rendered to Jamaica in return for the yearly subsidy of £20,000 are very far from being confined to what it has effected in regard to the fruit trade.

369. The Direct steamers considerably reduced the passenger rates between Jamaica and England. Formerly the first class cabin rates by the Royal Mail Line were from £25 to £40 single and from £40 to £55 return. They have been cut down to £18 and £25 single and £32 to £40 return. The rates for children have also been very greatly reduced and this has enabled parents to have their children out to them during their holidays instead of being separated from them for many years as was formerly

the rule. The direct money value of these reductions is indicated by the fact that 1,218 passengers were carried by this Line outwards and 1,282 homewards. Many of these were Jamaicans who thus profited directly by this subsidy, the rest were visitors who spent money in the Island. This competition has also caused the Royal Mail Company to reduce their charges to their passengers.

370. The outward rates for freight, of which upwards of 1,100 tons a month on an average have been carried, have been greatly reduced, to the advantage of importers, and during the latter part of the year the Company, with the object of assisting the sugar industry, has been carrying sugar to England without charge. Unfortunately, the condition of the English market has not encouraged many planters to avail themselves of this advantage, the United States market being as a rule so much more favourable as to countervail the saving on freight, but several exporters have profited largely by the liberality offered, one to the amount of over £600.

371. The Direct Line has also established a weekly coastal service round the Island (though this is not required by their contract) which, with the weekly coastal steamer of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company gives a service round the Island in each direction every week. The rates of coastal freight have been much reduced and every port in the Island has benefited.

372. Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., and those associated with him in the firm of Elder, Dempster and Company and its connection, have also during the year under review taken over the management of the two principal hotels on the south side of the Island—Myrtle Bank and Constant Spring—and have in the improvement, equipment, and advertisement of these hotels spent nearly £20,000.

373. The Direct Line and the improvement of these hotels attracted to the Island in the spring of 1902 an unprecedented influx of English visitors, whilst the improved hotel accommodation contributed to encourage the influx of American visitors. The American tourist traffic has been effectively promoted by the United Fruit Company who have a fine hotel at Port Antonio, and whose frequent steamers offer attractive facilities to visitors, and there is every reason confidently to expect that the enterprises of the Direct Line in this connection will be of increasing yearly profit to the Colony. Last spring the total influx of visitors was much greater than it has ever been before (if the year of the Jamaica Exhibition be left out of account, as to which I cannot speak). The numbers, I am assured, exceeded three thousand. The majority, no doubt, came from the United States and did not make any very long stay, but the English visitors brought by the Direct Line and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and accommodated in Messrs. Elder, Dempster Company's hotels must have spent a large amount in the Island.

374. I regard it as beyond question that, taking into account the fruit trade, the reduction of passenger fares, the reduction of ocean and coastal freights, the rehabilitation of the two hotels, and the introduction of visitors, the Direct Line has in trade and money brought into the Island and, in the savings of commercial and private expenses it has made possible, directly repaid much more than the amount of the subsidy granted it. Indirectly for improving mail facilities, shortening the voyage to England, and for promoting a better knowledge of the Island and its possibilities it can claim a large additional credit, and although it does not, as yet, directly bring back to the Treasury a revenue equivalent to the subsidy, it has demonstrably conducted even in this first year to increasing the Customs Duties and Harbour Dues and Postal Revenues and other receipts besides enabling more than £2,500 to be saved on the mail subsidy of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

375. It is right to give so much credit to the institution of the Direct Line for the improved promise of our circumstances, although comparatively little of the actual improvement as yet realised can be attributed to that enterprise. The bulk of it has been due to the increased demand for fruit in the United States and to the great amount of planting that has been done to supply it.

It is much to be desired that a like energy may be developed in the planting of chocolate and the improvement of our common coffee, but to bring this about will be a long and difficult task.

376. The year has had in some respects more than usual of characteristics interesting and even diverting to an observant resident involved in the affairs of the Island. He has been the amused spectator of a discovery of Jamaica, if not of the West Indies generally, on the part of some sections of British journalism and the British newspaper public. Jamaica has been the subject of more than the usual number of "Impressions" and criticisms mostly somewhat ill-informed, superficial, and devoid of originality. The increasing frequency of visitors that we look for will in time, we hope, disabuse the American and British public of the idea that we live under the shade of Mont Pelée and Morne Garou, and are overwhelmed with volcanic ashes and seethed in boiling springs; that our negro population is in a chronic state of suppressed rebellion; and our commercial and planting classes clamouring for annexation to the United States or to Canada. All these myths come out to us as news from the Mother Country or the American continent. They are the outcome of the ingenuity of audacious local journalists and cable correspondents who know their *clientèle*, but they appear in foreign journals before they appear in our own. Our visitors often express astonishment at the ignorant self-complacency of the creole, but the creole has before him the constant spectacle of gross ignorance and gullibility on the part of his British and American cousins in regard to geogra-

phical and social facts of which every Jamaica school boy is cognisant.

377. I have observed that, as a people, we have a habit of being rather sorry for ourselves. We have not the cheerfulness of the Barbadian. On the other hand our depression makes us mumpish and melancholy rather than vicious and violent. We overdo our talk of depression, we overdo our talk of the extravagances of the Government, of the superfluity of our public officials. Our visitors take for public gospel what we promulgate for private consumption.

I trust that this Report may be held to show that the prospects of the Island are sound enough, and that however costly the establishment of Government may appear, it is for the most part doing good work for that cost, and work that is fully demanded by the community, however much they may groan about having to pay for it.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVER,

Administering the Government.

TABLE I.
General Revenue of the Government for the year 1901-02 as compared with the previous year 1900-01.

—	1901-1902.		1900-1901.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Customs	344,905	17 1	337,416	11 4½	7,489	5 8½	—	—
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse Dues	5,627	19 8½	5,046	15 3½	581	4 4½	—	—
License, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	181,199	15 10½	136,710	7 0	44,489	8 10½	—	—
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements in aid and Irrigation Receipts.	67,483	8 4½	60,067	17 4½	7,415	11 0	—	—
Post Office and Telegraphs	28,763	1 5	26,616	12 7½	2,146	8 9½	—	—
Railway	118,214	11 3	134,952	5 2	—	—	16,737	13 11
Rents	1,924	17 8	2,297	15 9	—	—	372	18 1
Interest	18,988	12 2½	17,475	1 1	1,513	11 1½	—	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,097	10 0	8,328	0 9½	—	—	4,230	10 9½
Quit Rents, transferred from Parochial Road Reserved Fund.	1,151	1 8	9,128	13 4	—	—	7,977	11 8
Total, exclusive of Land Sales	772,356	15 3½	738,039	19 10	63,635	9 11	29,318	14 5½
Land Sales	1,884	1 11	1,515	9 0	368	12 11	—	—
Total Local Revenue	774,240	17 2½	739,555	8 10	64,001	2 10	29,318	14 5½
Imperial Grant in aid of Agriculture	596	9 1	200	0 0	396	9 1	—	—
Imperial Loan in aid of General Revenue	—	—	20,631	10 0	—	—	20,631	10 0
Total General Revenue	774,837	6 3½	760,386	18 10	64,400	11 11	49,950	4 5
Net Increase	—	—	—	—	450	7 5½	—	—

TABLE II.
GENERAL EXPENDITURE of the GOVERNMENT for the YEAR 1901-1902 as compared with the previous year.

	1901-1902.			1900-1901.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges of Debt:—Interest	136,312	7	3	139,165	6	3	—	—	—	2,852	19	0
Interest—Arrears for Railway 3½ per cent	257	5	0	48,706	0	0	—	—	—	48,449	15	0
Inscribed Stock.												
Interest—Arrears on unissued Stock ...	4,630	10	0	—	—	—	4,630	10	0	—	—	—
Management	673	10	4	132	1	10	541	8	6	—	—	—
Management—Expenses of issue of Railway	1,151	1	8	9,760	3	4	—	—	—	8,609	1	8
Inscribed Stock.												
Sinking Funds	23,474	12	6	23,369	19	2	104	13	4	—	—	—
Redemption of Debt	—	—	—	190	0	0	—	—	—	190	0	0
Annuities—Jamaica Railway	8,669	2	0	—	—	—	8,669	2	0	—	—	—
Annuities—Deficit Loan	2,314	16	8	—	—	—	2,314	16	8	—	—	—
Annuities—Kingston Improvement	3,980	9	7	—	—	—	3,980	9	7	—	—	—
Total	181,463	15	0	221,323	10	7	20,241	0	1	66,100	15	8
Pensions	26,332	15	4½	24,351	15	0½	1,981	0	4	—	—	—
The Governor and Staff	6,650	19	5	6,584	0	7½	66	18	9½	—	—	—
Privy Council	126	13	7	103	8	6	23	5	1	—	—	—
Legislative Council	478	2	7	1,257	9	7½	—	—	—	779	7	0½
Colonial Secretariat	4,951	17	0½	5,181	19	10	—	—	—	230	2	9½
Public Works Department	12,690	4	5	12,751	4	9	—	—	—	61	0	4

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—	1901-1902.		1900-1901.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Customs	344,905	17 1	337,416	11 4½	7,489	5 8½	—	—
Port, Harbour and Lighthouse Dues	5,627	19 8½	5,046	15 3½	581	4 4½	—	—
License, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	181,199	15 10½	136,710	7 0	44,489	8 10½	—	—
Fees of Office, Stamp Duties, Reimbursements in aid and Irrigation Receipts.	67,483	8 4½	60,067	17 4½	7,415	11 0	—	—
Post Office and Telegraphs	28,763	1 5	26,616	12 7½	2,146	8 9½	—	—
Railway	118,214	11 3	134,952	5 2	—	—	16,737	13 11
Rents	1,924	17 8	2,297	16 9	—	—	372	18 1
Interest	18,988	12 2½	17,475	1 1	1,513	11 1½	—	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,097	10 0	8,328	0 9½	—	—	4,230	10 9½
Quit Rents, transferred from Panchial Board Reserved Fund.	1,151	1 8	9,128	13 4	—	—	7,977	11 8
Total, exclusive of Land Sales	772,356	15 3½	738,039	19 10	63,635	9 11	29,318	14 5½
Land Sales	1,884	1 11	1,515	9 0	368	12 11	—	—
Total Local Revenue	774,240	17 2½	739,555	8 10	64,001	2 10	29,318	14 5½
Imperial Grant in aid of Agriculture	596	9 1	200	0 0	396	9 1	—	—
Imperial Loan in aid of General Revenue	—	—	20,631	10 0	—	—	20,631	10 0
Total General Revenue	774,837	6 3½	760,386	18 10	64,400	11 11	49,950	4 5
Net Increase	—	—	—	—	450	7 5½	—	—

TABLE II.
GENERAL EXPENDITURE of the GOVERNMENT for the YEAR 1901-1902 as compared with the previous year.

	1901-1902.		1900-1901.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Charges of Debt:—Interest	136,312	7 3	139,165	6 3	—	—	2,852	19 0
Interest—Arrears for Railway 3½ per cent	257	5 0	48,706	0 0	—	—	48,444	15 0
Inscribed Stock.								
Interest—Arrears on unissued Stock	4,630	10 0	—	—	4,630	10 0	—	—
Management	673	10 4	132	1 10	541	8 6	—	—
Management—Expenses of issue of Railway	1,151	1 8	9,760	3 4	—	—	8,609	1 8
Inscribed Stock.								
Sinking Funds	23,474	12 6	23,369	19 2	104	13 4	—	—
Redemption of Debt	—	—	190	0 0	—	—	190	0 0
Annuities—Jamaica Railway	8,669	2 0	—	—	8,669	2 0	—	—
Annuities—Deficit Loan	2,314	16 8	—	—	2,314	16 8	—	—
Annuities—Kingston Improvement	3,980	9 7	—	—	3,980	9 7	—	—
Total	181,463	15 0	221,323	10 7	20,241	0 1	66,100	15 8
Pensions	26,332	15 4½	24,351	15 0½	1,981	0 4	—	—
The Governor and Staff	6,650	19 5	6,584	0 7½	66	18 9½	—	—
Privy Council	126	13 7	103	8 6	23	5 1	—	—
Legislative Council	478	2 7	1,257	9 7½	—	—	779	7 0½
Colonial Secretariat	4,851	17 0½	5,181	19 10	—	—	290	2 9½
Public Works Department	12,690	4 5	12,751	4 9	—	—	61	0 4

General Expenditure—cont.

—	1901-1902.		1900-1901.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Lands Department	3,529	0 11½	2,401	5 11½	927	15 0	—	—
Audit Department	4,132	0 11	4,461	9 6	—	—	329	8 7
Public Treasury	4,030	6 8½	4,604	9 11½	—	—	574	3 2½
Government Savings Bank	2,816	16 2½	3,227	3 3½	—	—	410	7 1½
Immigration	809	12 11½	880	1 4	—	—	70	8 4½
Clerks of Parochial Boards	728	5 2	946	17 6	—	—	218	12 4
Stamp Office	854	8 7	864	6 9½	—	—	9	18 2½
Excise, Internal Revenue and Customs	38,917	4 2½	41,223	18 8½	—	—	2,306	14 5½
Post Office	25,505	12 3	28,653	16 3½	—	—	3,148	4 0½
Telegraphs	7,371	0 2	7,514	10 2	—	—	143	10 0
Judicial	38,106	14 3½	40,308	16 10	—	—	2,202	2 6½
Ecclesiastical	1,823	15 4	2,091	0 2	—	—	266	4 10
Medical	48,767	8 3½	49,535	15 10½	—	—	768	7 7
Constabulary and Prisons	74,663	18 8½	74,846	12 9	—	—	182	14 0½
Reformatories	3,013	10 4	3,029	6 5	—	—	15	16 1
Industrial Schools	1,246	0 6½	1,332	8 6½	—	—	86	7 1½
Education	52,249	9 8	56,070	19 0½	—	—	1,821	9 4½
Harbours and Pilotage	2,165	11 7	2,187	12 7½	—	—	22	1 0½
Military	11,444	13 9	12,212	3 5	—	—	767	9 8
Telegraphic communication between England and Jamaica	1,500	0 0	2,500	0 0	—	—	1,000	0 0
Direct Steamship Subsidy	18,333	6 8	4 7 6	—	18,328	19 2	—	—
Registrar-General's Department and Record Office.	4,684	11 4	4,335	8 4½	—	—	150	17 0½

Registration of Titles	931 13 3	942 19 9	—	—	11 6 6
Registration written back to Deposit Account	—	620 7 0	—	—	620 7 0
Printing Office	8,842 4 7	7,452 0 1	1,390 4 6	—	—
Institute of Jamaica	1,269 2 9	1,776 4 10	—	—	507 2 1
Board of Supervision	382 2 5½	484 5 7	—	—	102 3 1½
Agricultural Services	7,507 14 9	5,939 2 9	1,568 12 0	—	—
Agricultural Lecturer	448 7 10	464 18 7	—	—	16 10 9
Miscellaneous	6,661 8 10½	8,904 11 8½	—	—	2,243 2 10½
Public Works and Buildings	62,375 16 11½	54,396 0 11	7,979 16 0½	—	—
Public Works—written off the Advance Account	—	9,444 1 8½	—	—	9,444 1 8½
Lighthouses	2,253 11 0	1,542 13 8	710 17 4	—	—
Lighthouse Expenditure under Law 8 of 1890	—	2,540 14 8½	—	—	2,540 14 8½
Written off Advances.					
Railway Expenditure (7½ months of 1900-1901)	77,961 2 1	48,923 9 11	26,672 14 2	—	—
Railway Debts paid by order of Court...	—	2,364 18 0	—	—	—
Railway Extension Track	167 8 8	14 16 8	152 12 0	—	—
Taxes and Insurance	—	2,566 2 0½	—	—	2,566 2 0½
Real Property Valuation... ..	1,771 19 1	—	1,771 19 1	—	—
Total General Expenditure	751,700 8 3½	763,662 7 10½	—	—	—
Nett decrease	—	—	—	—	11,961 19 7½

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TABLE IV.
DIRECT TAXATION OF HOUSES AND LANDS.
Abstract of Returns, 1886-87 to 1901-02.

Year.	For General Revenue.					For Parochial Revenue.			
	Quit Rents.	Holdings Tax.	Property Tax.	School Tax.	Total.	House Tax.	Property Tax.	Total	Grand Total.
1886-87	£ 7,540	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ 7,540	£ 43,742	£ 5,044	£ 48,786	£ 56,326
1887-88	8,091	—	—	—	8,091	48,032	5,430	53,462	61,553
1888-89	7,911	—	—	—	7,911	52,427	5,223	57,656	65,567
1889-90	8,021	—	—	—	8,021	†31,426	5,354	36,780	44,801
1890-91	8,027	16,112	222	—	24,361	48,271	5,448	53,719	78,080
1891-92	4,280	13,859	298	—	18,437	53,352	5,310	59,262	77,699
1892-93	7,405	14,255	329	—	21,989	53,866	5,361	59,227	81,216
1893-94	7,626	14,384	362	—	22,372	56,290	5,450	61,740	84,112
1894-95	7,630	14,368	373	—	22,371	56,684	5,390	62,074	84,445
1895-96	8,068	14,455	377	—	22,900	57,217	5,662	62,879	85,779
1896-97	7,637	12,595	382	11,233	31,847	54,898	5,245	60,143	91,390
1897-98	7,343	12,109	484	9,711	29,597	52,886	4,966	57,852	87,449
1898-99	7,747	13,977	467	10,908	33,099	55,372	5,354	60,726	93,825
1899-1900	8,114	13,904	499	10,783	33,301	61,726	5,463	67,189	100,490
1900-01*	6,548	10,456	461	9,632	27,117	52,996	4,604	57,600	84,717
1901-02	8,221	24,604	†8,629	11,219	52,673	62,858	5,394	68,252	120,925

* Two thirds of a year.

† Proceeds for general revenue of special increase of property tax.

‡ Half year.

TABLE V.
HOLDINGS TAX.
Summary of Returns 1890-91 to 1901-02.

Year.	Number of holdings paid on.			Amount collected.		
	Current.	Arrears.	Total.	Current.	Arrears.	Total.
1890-91 ...	£ Not recorded.	£ Not recorded.	£ 114,944	£ Not recorded.	£ Not recorded.	£ 16,112
1891-92 ...			91,972			13,859
1892-93 ...	86,242	7,930	94,172	13,124	1,131	14,255
1893-94 ...	85,988	7,845	93,833	13,116	1,267	14,383
1894-95 ...	84,199	8,520	92,719	12,894	1,475	14,369
1895-96 ...	80,352	10,315	90,667	12,470	1,986	14,456
1896-97 ...	68,263	8,322	76,585	10,988	1,608	12,596
1897-98 ...	60,338	11,421	71,759	10,017	2,092	12,109
1898-99 ...	62,535	17,685	80,220	10,329	3,649	13,978
1899-1900 ...	61,416	18,345	79,761	10,135	3,769	13,904
1900-01* ...	60,718	18,457	79,175	6,696	3,760	10,456
1901-02† ...	72,010	28,097	100,107	19,160	5,444	24,604

* Two-thirds of year.

† Tax increased.

TABLE VI.
HOUSE TAX.
Summary of Total Returns of House Tax, 1886-1902.

	Average Rate.	Number of houses paid on.			Total Yield.	Average payment per House.
		Current.	Arrears.	Total.		
1886-87	s. d. 1 10	71,957	5,312	77,269	£ 43,742	11 3½
1887-88	—	75,542	7,153	82,695	48,032	11 7½
1888-89	—	77,702	5,142	82,844	52,427	12 8
1889-90	—	80,960	5,331	86,291	{ ½ year. } 31,426	°
1890-91	—	81,396	4,438	85,834	48,271	11 3
1891-92	—	82,373	5,018	87,391	53,952	12 4½
1892-93	—	82,364	5,591	87,955	53,866	12 3
1893-94	—	82,552	5,632	88,184	56,290	12 9½
1894-95	—	79,878	5,421	85,299	56,684	13 3½
1895-96	—	75,393	7,154	82,547	57,217	13 10½
1896-97	2 3	66,313	6,532	72,845	54,898	15 0½
1897-98	2 8	58,664	9,187	67,851	52,886	15 7
1898-99	2 7	59,121	14,428	73,549	55,372	15 0½
1899-00	2 6½	56,372	13,362	69,734	61,721	17 8½
1900-01†	2 7½	55,743	12,944	68,687	52,996	°
1901-02	2 7½	64,346	17,312	81,658	62,858	15 4½

* In the periods which are only portions of a year no fair average per house comparable with the others can be arrived at.

† Two thirds of year.

TABLE VII.

PARAGRAPH .

Values of imports and exports of Jamaica as assessed by the Customs Department :—

YEAR.	EXPORTS.				IMPORTS.		
	Island Products and Manu- factures.	British and Foreign Products and Manu- factures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	For Home Con- sumption.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home, including Specie.
1897-98	£ 1,377,826	£ 20,246	£ 50,371	£ 1,448,443	£ 1,658,632	£ 15,749	£ 1,674,381
1898-99	£ 1,523,378	£ 34,302	£ 95,863	£ 1,662,543	£ 1,770,768	£ 17,664	£ 1,788,432
1899-1900	£ 1,797,996	£ 26,246	£ 43,838	£ 1,868,079	£ 1,733,666	£ 73,199	£ 1,906,865
1900-01	£ 1,738,523	£ 20,820	£ 97,733	£ 1,797,076	£ 1,621,794	£ 30,883	£ 1,652,677
1901-02	£ 1,623,684	£ 38,727	£ 76,731	£ 1,939,142	£ 1,669,390	£ 30,135	£ 1,699,525
Total	£ 8,270,407	£ 140,340	£ 304,536	£ 8,715,283	£ 8,454,250	£ 167,630	£ 8,621,880
Average	£ 1,658,087	£ 28,068	£ 60,907	£ 1,743,057	£ 1,690,860	£ 33,526	£ 1,724,376

TABLE VIII.

PARAGRAPH

Statistics relating to exports of 10 principal staples of produce.

Article.	Quantity.		Value.		Increase or decrease (as shown by + or - on 1900-01.)		Percentage Increase or Decrease on 1900-01.		Price.	
	1901-02.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1900-01.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	1901-02.	1900-01.
Cocos ...	Cwt. 89,953	Cwt. 23,450	£ 83,924	£ 64,488	Cwt. + 15,503	+ 19,436	+ 70-0	+ 30-1	s. d. 42 0 per cwt.	s. d. 55 0 per cwt.
Cocoanuts ...	Number. 17,662,827	Number. 13,656,778	61,818	41,845	Number. + 4,107,049	+ 20,478	+ 80-0	+ 49-5	70 0 " M.	61 0 " M.
Coffee ...	Cwt. 103,126	Cwt. 85,907	152,091	157,485	Cwt. + 17,219	- 5,394	+ 20-0	- 8-4	29 5 " cwt.	36 8 " cwt.
Fruit—Bananas	Bunches 11,008,640	Bunches 8,248,485	825,288	618,686	Bunches + 2,755,855	+ 206,652	+ 34-6	+ 33-4	1 6 " bunch.	1 6 " bunch.
" Oranges	Number. 79,061,660	Number. 88,825,650	102,780	115,478	Number. - 9,764,000	- 12,698	- 10-9	- 10-9	26 0 " M.	26 0 " M.
Ginger ...	Cwt. 21,247	Cwt. 26,530	87,358	66,324	Cwt. - 5,183	- 21,066	- 19-5	- 43-6	80 8 " cwt.	50 0 " cwt.
Logwood	Tons. 41,107	Tons. 84,008	108,796	98,618	Tons. + 7,101	+ 8,178	+ 20-8	+ 5-2	50 6 " ton.	58 0 " ton.
Pimento ...	Cwt. 72,080	Cwt. 100,547	79,288	110,602	Cwt. - 28,467	- 31,314	- 28-8	- 28-8	22 0 " cwt.	22 0 " cwt.
Rum ...	Gallons. 1,422,010	Gallons. 1,404,406	124,428	152,944	Gallons. + 17,606	- 27,818	+ 1-2	- 18-2	1 9 " gallon.	2 2 " gallon.
Sugar ...	Cwt. 321,859	Cwt. 295,007	186,706	165,941	Cwt. + 26,652	- 20,765	+ 9-0	- 17-6	8 6 " cwt.	11 0 " cwt.
Value of 10 chief products exported.	—	—	1,707,474	1,591,156	—	+ 116,318	—	+ 7-3	—	—
Miscellaneous products Value of products exported.	—	—	116,210	147,987	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	1,823,684	1,739,143	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE IX.

TABLE of LAWS passed at a SESSION of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL of JAMAICA, which began on the 5th day of FEBRUARY and adjourned *sine die* on the 30th day of MAY, 1901.

No.	Laws.
1	The Jamaica Railway Vesting Law, 1901.
2	The Constabulary Law, Amendment Law, 1901.
3	The Registration of Voters Law, Amendment Law, 1901.
4	The Patent Laws, Amendment Law, 1901.
5	The Calcium Carbide Sale and Storage Law, 1901.
6	The Quit Rents and Produce Protection Duties Appropriation Law, 1901.
7	The Kingston Unoccupied House Rate Law, 1901.
8	A Law to allow and confirm certain expenditure in 1899-1900.
9	A Law to impose additional taxation on lands in aid of General Revenue.
10	A Law to consolidate and amend the Kingston Assessment Laws.
11	The Appropriation Law, 1901-02.
12	The Match Excise Duty Law, 1901.
13	The Reformatories and Industrial Schools Law, Amendment Law, 1901.
14	A Law to amend the Jamaica Railway Company's Law, 1889.
15	The Produce Protection Laws Amendment Law, 1901.
16	A Law to give effect to certain stipulations contained in the Convention made between the United Kingdom and the United States of America, relative to the disposal of real and personal property signed at Washington on the 2nd of March 1899.
17	The Parochial Boards Laws Consolidation Law, 1901.
18	A Law to regulate the sale of Agricultural Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs.
19	The Taxpayers Relief Law 1893, Amendment Law, 1901.
20	The Port Royal Regulation Law, 1901.
21	A Law in aid of the Laws relating to Prædial Larceny.
22	The Valuation Law, 1901.
23	The Scholarship Law, 1901.
24	The May Pen Cemetery and Bumper Hall Hospital Law.
25	The Stamp Duty Laws, Amendment Law, 1901.

TABLE X.
(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Endowed Schools under the Regulation of the Jamaica Schools Commission.

School.	Locality.	Students 31st March, 1902.		Infants.	Results at Cambridge Local Examinations, 1901.		
		Boys.	Girls.		Entered.	Passed.	Honours.
Jamaica High School and University College now named Jamaica College.	St. Andrew...	53	—	—	39	36	2
Wolmer's, Boys	Kingston ...	76	—	—	13	10	—
Wolmer's, Girls	Do. ...	—	146	—	46	22	3
Titchfield Higher Grade.	Port Antonio	18	—	—	—	—	—
Titchfield Elementary.	Do.	109	108	74	—	—	—
Rusea's, Boys...	Lucea ...	28	—	—	2	2	—
Rusea's, Girls...	Do. ...	—	21	—	—	—	—
Manning's, Boys	Sav. - la - Mar	36	—	—	10	8	—
Manning's, Girls	Do.	—	30	—	7	4	—
Munro and Dickenson's— Boys ...	Potsdam, St. Elizabeth.	58	—	—	23	23	3
Girls ...	Hampton, St. Elizabeth.	—	66	—	21	14	4
Middle Grade...	Manchester...	24	—	—	7	5	—
Vere Elementary Schools (7).	Clarendon, Vere District.	725	—	—	—	—	—
Beckford and Smith's.	Spanish Town	35	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE XI.
POOR HOUSES AND POOR RELIEF.

Year.	Estimated Population.			Number of Paupers.						Percentage of Paupers to Population.			Pauper Expenditure.			Charge (total) per head of Population.	Ratio of Paupers to Population.
	Maintained in the Parish.		Maintained out of the Parish.			Total.	In the Parish.	Out of the Parish.	Total.	In the Parish.	Out of the Parish.	Total.		
				Outdoor.	Indoor.	Total.	Industrial School Children.	Lunatics.	Total.	Grand Total.							
1899-1900	3,723	811	4,534	208	721	929	5,463	0.61	0.13	0.74	24,948	15,547	40,495	1 : 136			
1900-1901	3,887	806	4,693	199	781	980	5,673	0.62	0.13	0.75	26,260	15,921	42,181	1 : 134			
1901-1902	4,163	835	4,998	184	770	954	5,952	0.64	0.12	0.76	25,259	16,156	41,415	1 : 131			

TABLE XII.
POOR RELIEF STATISTICS, for the several PARISHES for the YEAR, 1901-02.

Parish.	Esti- mated Popu- lation.	Number of Paupers.						Percentage of paupers to population.			Pauper expenditure.			Charge (total) per head of Population.	Ratio of paupers (total) of Population.		
		Maintenance in the Parish.			Maintenance out of the Parish.			In the Parish.	Out of the Parish.	Total.	In the Parish.	Out of the Parish.	Total.				
		Outdoor.	Indoor.	Total.	Industrial school children.	Lunatics.	Total.										
{	Kingston	59,000	1,087	187	1,274	84	133	217	1,491	2.19	.57	2.56	6,342	3,660	10,002	3.5	1.39
	Port Royal	—	17	—	17	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	96	—	96	—	—
	St. Andrew	46,000	212	80	292	34	47	81	373	.63	.17	.80	1,664	1,500	3,164	1.5	1:123
	St. Thomas	39,000	124	58	182	4	34	38	220	.47	.10	.57	1,216	670	1,886	1.0	1:177
	Portland	39,000	167	31	198	1	34	35	233	.51	.09	.60	1,206	655	1,861	0.11	1:167
	St. Mary	52,000	82	62	144	3	42	45	189	.28	.09	.37	1,353	790	2,143	0.10	1:275
	St. Ann	66,000	206	47	253	2	50	52	305	.38	.08	.46	1,528	730	2,258	0.8	1:216
	Trelawny	38,000	214	37	251	3	22	25	276	.66	.07	.73	1,176	560	1,736	0.11	1:138
	St. James	42,000	252	21	273	7	49	56	329	.65	.14	.79	1,259	930	2,189	1.1	1:128
	Hanover	39,000	289	37	326	5	29	34	360	.84	.08	.92	1,218	568	1,886	1.0	1:108
	Westmoreland	65,000	260	43	303	4	59	63	366	.47	.10	.57	1,423	980	2,403	0.9	1:178
	St. Elizabeth	76,000	156	53	209	24	57	81	290	.28	.11	.39	934	1,273	2,207	0.7	1:262
	Manchester	67,000	536	—	536	8	38	46	582	.80	.07	.87	1,925	890	2,815	0.10	1:115
	Clarendon	69,000	224	71	295	2	64	66	361	.43	.09	.52	1,483	1,050	2,533	0.9	1:191
St. Catherine	80,000	337	108	445	3	112	115	560	.56	.14	.70	2,436	1,800	4,236	1.1	1:143	

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900-1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar... ..	"
360	Straits Settlements	"
361	Sierra Leone	"
362	British Honduras	"
363	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
364	Seychelles	"
365	Bahamas... ..	1901-1902
366	Fiji	1901
367	Ceylon	"
368	Barbados... ..	1901-1902
369	Hong Kong	1901
370	Cocos Islands	1902
371	St. Helena	1901
372	British Solomon Islands	1901-1902

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 348

LAGOS.

REPORT FOR 1900-1901.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 321.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1902.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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No. 348.

LAGOS,
1900-1901.

LAGOS.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 321.)

GOVERNOR SIR W. MACGREGOR to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Lagos,

30th November, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the Financial Year 1900-1901, together with a full report on it by the Honourable C. H. H. Moseley, Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

W. MACGREGOR,

Governor.

LAGOS,
1900-1901.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Lagos,

5th November, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the Financial Year 1900-1901.

TAXES AND DUTIES.

No new tax was levied during the year, except that Customs dues were increased by imposing on all goods of every description, not specially exempted in the second part of Ordinance No. 8 of 1899, an *ad valorem* duty of ten per cent. on the value of goods at the port from which the same shall have been imported. Previously, on like goods, an *ad valorem* duty of five per cent. only was levied.

There are no local direct taxes levied by the Government.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total revenue for the year 1900-1901 amounted to £211,467, showing an increase, as compared with the previous year, of £18,676, and a slight increase, £687, over the sum estimated. The population of the Colony and Protectorate being in round numbers 1,500,000, taxation per head is 2s. 9d.

The expenditure of the year amounted to £187,124, against £223,289 the year previous.

Comparative statements of revenue and expenditure for the years 1899 and 1900-1901 will be found at the end of this Report.

EXPORTS.

During the year 1900 there was a heavy fall in the value of West African mahogany.

A considerable quantity of timber was cut by natives, who were greatly disappointed by the very low prices offered in Lagos. For a long time there was a large accumulation of logs at Ejinrin, Epé, and in the numerous rivers in the western waters. Logs once brought to Lagos and allowed to lie in salt water are soon destroyed by the teredo, a genus of worm which is very destructive, boring into the timber and destroying it to such an extent that it becomes unmarketable. To avoid this, logs were not brought down to Lagos, but allowed to accumulate in large numbers in the fresh water rivers as well as at Ejinrin and Epé, where the water is quite fresh.

The low prices ruling in the European markets decreased the popularity of timber cutting. A good deal of loss was also incurred by immature trees being felled by native timber-cutters encouraged by merchants, who, in order to secure a good log, would purchase useless ones with which it might be united in a lot, timber being sold in lots.

LAGOS.
1900-1901.

This practice was detrimental, as it induced the native timber-cutters to fell small trees which were unmarketable. It is feared that considerable timber has been destroyed in this way, and it is obvious that much labour has been wasted from the same cause. This useless expenditure of labour might have been more profitably employed in producing palm oil and kernels, and the loss of labour is as much to be deprecated as the loss of immature trees.

Timber concessions to Europeans have not been profitable for several reasons, the most prominent being the fall in price in Europe of timber, and the high freights charged by the Steamship Companies, and at one time the utter failure of the Steamship Companies to provide shipping accommodation, whereby many logs were ruined from lying in the lagoon, where they were destroyed by the teredo. This unfortunate state of affairs has produced inconvenience and great loss to the concessionaires, and injury to the trade of the Colony; and the mischief done will not easily or speedily be repaired.

Owing to the above causes the timber trade has been a very disappointing one, and it must be expected that this industry will, at any rate for some time, be much neglected. In addition, the loss of labour unprofitably employed must not be overlooked in dealing with this question.

The trade in rubber has, unfortunately, continued to languish, as every expert acquainted with the state of the forests foretold it must do. There is, however, still hope for this export, if stringent measures of forest regeneration are energetically carried out. In this industry, as in the timber trade, labour has been wasted which might have been put to profitable use in collecting and exploiting palm oil and palm kernels. The staples of the Colony are palm oil and palm kernels, timber, and rubber. Labour diverted from working palm oil and kernels to the industry of cutting down, hauling, and floating to Lagos immature and unsaleable logs, and to hunting through the forest to collect a few cupfuls of rubber from a small remnant of undersized and overtapped Iré rubber trees, is waste of labour in the worst possible degree. The trade of the Colony in palm oil and palm kernels has suffered during 1901 through no failure of nature, but from want of the necessary labour to gather the yield.

At the end of this report, a return showing the details of imports and exports during five years will be found.

LAGOS,
1900-1901.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The amount of the debt of the Colony, on the 31st March, 1901, was £972,902.

This debt has been incurred solely for the building of the railway from Lagos to Ibádan, the tramway from Lagos to Iddo, the Abeokúta branch of the railway, and the bridges from Lagos island to the mainland.

The Legislature has sanctioned the borrowing of £1,053,700 for these purposes.

LAGOS GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

The railway from Lagos to Ibádan was opened for traffic on March 4th with enthusiastic ceremony. The length of the line is 122½ miles. Construction work began in December, 1895. The cost has been, in round numbers, £1,000,000.

The extension of the line is being considered along two alternative routes, viz., either *viâ* Oyo, Ogbomosho, Ilórin, and thence across the Niger to Kano, or *viâ* Iwo, Edi, Oshogbo, Ilesha, Ikirun, Ilorin, and thence northward. Preliminary surveys have been taken. At present, the important towns served are Lagos, Abeokúta, and Ibádan. A small branch line is being constructed from the station at Aro, near Abeokúta, to the walls of the town, across the river Ogun. The terminus at Iddo is being joined to Lagos by a light tramway running over the Carter bridge.

Effect of the Railway on the Local Markets.

Ikorodu market depends mainly upon the supply of native produce from the Egba country, the Ijebu Remo country, and the Ibádan country, and the corresponding demand in those territories for articles of European manufacture or preparation.

The railway taps the Egba and Ibádan countries directly, and it is certain that so soon as native producers have acquired confidence in the line the effect will be that Ikorodu market will become nothing but a large local (Ijebu) market for Remo only. Attendance at this market has been known to average anything from 10,000 to 15,000 persons. To bring produce from Ibádan to Ikorodu by foot takes three days; from the north of the Remo two days; and from the Egba country from one to two days. An extra day must be added for the journey to Lagos. The railway halves these times at the least, and instead of a native producer in Ibádan having to wait from six to eight days for the price of his produce he can now have it in about three days. So soon as the native producer appreciates this it is reasonable to expect that every ton of produce that used to

be sent to Ikorodu from Egba and Ibádan territories will be sent direct to Lagos *via* the railway.

LAGOS,
1900-1901.

Ikosi market is a purely Ijebu market, and practically a local one, and so far as can be seen will not be affected by the railway, unless at some future time a branch line is constructed from Aro to Shagamu, Ijebu-Ode, Araromi, Aiyesan, and the Ondo country.

Ejinrin.—This market, said to be the biggest in West Africa, will be prejudicially affected by the railway, and almost to the same extent as Ikorodu, for, although it “feeds” a greater expanse of territory than the Ikorodu market, yet this is counter-balanced by the fact that some of the districts within its zone are now also in commercial communication with Southern Nigeria, principally *via* New Benin. Ejinrin depends upon the Ijebu-Ode, Ibádan, Ilesha, Ikale, Ojo, Ondo, and Mahin countries.

Ibádan and Ilesha and northern parts of Ijebu-Ode will, undoubtedly, be tapped by the railway, and Ejinrin will, in all probability, remain a large local market for the supply of the Ijebu-Ode territory.

Tariff.

All goods, not including agricultural produce, are divided for railway transport into three classes for the purpose of fixing the rates at which they are carried. The following are the rates fixed for the three classes:—

Class I.	...	...	9 <i>d.</i> per ton per mile.
Class II.	...	...	6 <i>d.</i> per ton per mile.
Class III.	...	...	3 <i>d.</i> per ton per mile.

A rebate of 7½ per cent. is allowed to any consignor who forwards a consignment of not less than 10 tons, and 10 per cent. for a consignment of not less than 15 tons.

The annual charge on account of the Public Debt incurred for the railway is £51,730.

SHIPPING.

Five hundred and thirty-seven steamers and one sailing vessel, representing a tonnage of 536,091, entered. Of these, 370 were British and 168 foreign, the aggregate tonnage in each case being British 415,501, and foreign 120,590.

Mail, Cargo, and Passenger Service.

The mail, cargo, and passenger service of the Colony has been performed by the Elder, Dempster Line running from Liverpool thrice monthly, and from Hamburg monthly by the steamers of the Woermann Line. In addition, cargo steamers of the above lines run irregularly between Liverpool and Lagos.

LAGOS, 1900-1901. Several new ships were launched by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. during 1900, and the service has since been better conducted, being now much more reliable. This will prove a great convenience and benefit, since, heretofore, communication had been irregular. The importance of the establishment of regular communication will not be disputed by anyone. The industries of the Colony have flagged, and our commerce has suffered severely in the past from the slow, irregular, and infrequent means by which alone the European markets could be reached.

Officers and other passengers leaving for Europe or the northern coast experience great inconvenience and discomfort at times in having to wait tossing about for days outside the bar, or even having to return and then go out again to meet the ocean-going steamers, whose arrival here from Forcádos is most uncertain.

For this, and other reasons of importance to commerce, a system of some direct means of communication between Lagos and Forcádos was considered a pressing necessity. The finances of the Colony would not justify undertaking a subsidy of £3,500 a year to connect the two places by cable, and the construction of a land wire would mean an expenditure for building and maintenance that could not at the time be met. There remained only the pigeon post: and proposals were submitted and approved by the Secretary of State for the establishment of this system of communication between these two places. The training of pigeons was taken in hand by Captain Elgee. This officer has successfully trained birds to fly from stations within the Colony and Protectorate, and, in spite of the many difficulties to be overcome, it is hoped that the system will be perfected at no distant date, and the experiment of connecting the two ports be successful.

The eastern and western districts of the Colony are now connected by regular and reliable weekly steam launch communication, which is a great improvement on the previous irregular communication by small open canoes. The services are performed by Government launches, and the launch which conveys the Western District mails and passengers proceeds to Porto Novo.

The rate to Great Britain by the African Direct Telegraph Company has been reduced from 7s. 1d. to 6s. 5d. per word, Government messages being taken at half this rate. In addition to an annual subsidy of £1,000, paid to the African Direct Telegraph Company by the Lagos Government, £525 was paid to this Company for telegrams despatched over the line during the year.

Inland telegraphic communication between Jebba, in Northern Nigeria, and the principal out-stations in the Colony was maintained by the Government at a cost of £1,353.

The rate charged is 6d. for 12 words.

BANKS.

LAGOS,
1900-1901

The Savings Bank, which is under the management and control of the Colonial Treasurer, allows interest on deposits at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum. Sums deposited during the year amounted to £9,419, as against £10,487 in 1899, a decrease of £1,068. The withdrawals were £9,855, as against £9,842 the previous year.

The Bank held a total of £16,117 for 1,173 depositors, on the 31st December, 1900, as against £16,553, which stood to the credit of 1,071 depositors in 1899, a decrease of £436 as compared with the previous year.

The Bank of British West Africa started business in Lagos in 1891 as the African Banking Corporation. The authorised capital of the Bank is £250,000, subscribed capital £100,000, called-up capital £40,000, reserve capital £60,000, reserve £11,610. The business of the Bank is increasing every year.

Four per cent. interest is allowed on yearly deposits, and three per cent. for deposits of six months.

MEDICAL.

The expenditure on account of hospitals, and the Medical Department generally, amounted to £11,535. Of this sum £9,070 was paid in salaries. Other expenses entailed a charge of £2,465. In 1890 the expenditure on account of this Department was only £2,975. In 1895, £5,939. This large increase in expenditure is incurred almost entirely for the benefit of the poor classes. The Lagos hospital has during the past three years become more and more popular, and with its green lawns and shrubberies it is one of the most attractive-looking spots in the Colony.

The hospitals of the Colony consist of the Lagos Hospital, the Contagious Diseases Hospital, Badagry Hospital, Epé Hospital, and a Leper Hospital. In addition, there are dispensaries at Ereko and Ebuté Metta. A Lunatic Asylum, situated at Yaba on the mainland, commenced in 1900, will shortly be ready for occupation.

A return showing the distribution of medical officers and nurses of the Department is attached.

On the 25th of January last a number of ladies of Lagos met, by invitation, at Government House, with the result that the "Lagos Ladies' League" was formed, the main object of which is the administration of quinine to children and the combating of infant mortality.

An extract is given of the speech made by the Governor (Sir William MacGregor) on this occasion, which sets forth the

LAGOS, 1900-1901. necessity for attention to the high percentage of mortality in the Colony:—

"We are fully aware that there is in this town an appalling amount of sickness, which is attended by a frightful rate of mortality. Two thousand two hundred persons die in this small town every year. It appears from official returns that about one-half of our children die within the first year. Now that is not a matter for us to sit by and look at with our hands folded. The great question is: Can we do anything to improve it? I believe that we can do a great deal, and if it is true that we can do so, it is my duty and yours to do what is in our power."

On the 4th of February the League elected its officers, the first President being Mrs. Sapara Williams, and the Vice-President Mrs. I. Oluwole, the wife of one of the native Bishops, and the Secretary Mrs. O. Johnson.

The islands of Lagos and Iddo, with the mainland suburb of Ebute Metta, have been divided into 16 districts, to each of which a proportionate number of ladies is appointed, one lady in each section acting as head of the district; and at regular and irregular periods the sick poor of the districts are visited by one or more of the ladies appointed to them respectively. Since its formation some hundreds of persons have been supplied with medicines and medical help through the medium of the League.

The League receives every assistance from the Government. Leaflets of instruction in the use of quinine, infant feeding, and the treatment of malarial fever have been written by the Chief Medical Officer for the guidance and information of the League, and the Secretary of State has conveyed his expression of satisfaction at its formation, and the hope that it will be successful in the humane and public-spirited labours which it has undertaken.

At present the League comprises about 100 ladies, and it is obvious that, its efforts being properly organized and directed, it can be of the greatest assistance in dealing with the needs of the sick poor of a population, which, in Lagos alone, numbers some 42,500.

SANITATION.

During the year sanitation occupied the closest attention of the authorities.

In 1890 a sum of £974 was spent under this head of service. In 1895 there was an expenditure of £1,340, and during 1900 £2,699 was spent. Additions in expenditure were made for an increased number of sanitary inspectors and scavengers, all of which were very much required. The sanitary state of the town has greatly improved within the past ten years, but there is room for still greater improvement. The services have been obtained

of a Government chemist at a cost of over £700, whose attention since his arrival in the Colony has been almost entirely devoted to matters connected with health. LAGOS,
1900-1901.

In January a Committee was appointed by His Excellency the Governor to report upon the high infant mortality in the town and suburbs of Lagos.

The direct causes of this evil the Commission found to be:—

1. Want of proper management of infants at birth and of the mothers in the puerperal state.
2. Ignorance on the part of the parents of the most elementary laws of health for themselves and infants.
3. Exposure of infants to variation of temperature, both at the time of birth and also afterwards.
4. Indiscriminate use of Agbo (a decoction of leaves and roots).
5. A total lack of actual responsibility on the part of the male parent for the care of the infant and mother.

As to general sanitation, schemes for the removal of sewage of the Colony of Lagos into the sea have been proposed, but, as they involve considerable capital expenditure, and, what is more serious, a large annual expenditure, it has been decided to defer action for the present, and until the Colony is in a better position to afford expenditure on this improvement.

The Government chemist has been engaged since his arrival in the Colony in the examination of all the public, as well as many private, wells of Lagos, carried out on three separate occasions, namely, during the wet season, at the beginning of the dry season, and again in the middle of the dry season.

In the first examination three of the public wells were reported on as good, five wells as suspicious, and the remaining forty-five as polluted. In the second examination, only one good and one suspicious well were returned out of the forty-five, while, in the third, one good and two suspicious were returned.

The better wells all lie in the most thinly populated part of the town, pollution getting greater as this part is left for the more densely populated districts.

Over 150 private wells were examined, and, in addition, 23 samples of water from Apapa, Oyo, Ikorodu, Ibádan, and other places.

The private wells of Lagos were generally all polluted, and were worse than the public wells, only three out of the 150 examined being reported as good.

Samples of water from outlying districts in the Colony were of good quality, some being extremely pure, while others required very little purification to render them wholesome.

It is proposed, as an experimental measure, to build five cement wells, of ten feet diameter, to be sunk with cast-iron running curbs, and five wells lined with iron tubes, three feet

Lagos, 1900-1901. in diameter, and materials necessary for this purpose have been ordered.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The vital statistics for the year still present the unsatisfactory features to which attention has so often been called. Among the native population the births registered are exceeded by the deaths, the number of the former being 1,940, and the latter 1,965. The death-rate among infants is appallingly high, as many as 842 dying under the age of one year, and 1,032, or more than half the total of deaths, under the age of six. Among the Europeans the deaths rose from 18 in the year 1899 to 21. Of the births registered the Mahommedans claim the greater share, numbering 1,363 out of the total of 1,940, as against 400 Christians and 177 Pagans. Fifty-four marriages were contracted under the provisions of the Marriage Ordinances, as against 58 in the previous year.

CLIMATE.

The character of the climate is well known to be unhealthy and depressing, the more pronounced periods of unhealthiness being at the change of the two seasons of the year, the "rains" and the "dries."

Lagos Island, the seat of Government, could never be made a truly healthy town, and it is proposed to erect residences for Europeans and natives at Oloke Meji hills, on the railway line.

Oloke Meji is situate about ninety miles from Lagos. The hills on which it is proposed to build a few experimental residences lie one on either bank of the Ogun River, and are parallel with one another. The highest point is about 1,100 feet. They are covered with rich vegetable soil, and have a delightful, pure air and an agreeable temperature. Dr. Strachan, Chief Medical Officer of the Colony, reports on the climate, soil, and geological formation as suitable for residence by Europeans. Vegetables and fruit can be grown there in any quantity.

MILITARY AND NAVAL.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has approved of the amalgamation of the military forces of the different Colonies and Protectorates on the West Coast of Africa into a single force, called the West African Frontier Force, the names of the various units being—

Northern Nigeria Regiment (old 1st and 2nd Niger Battalion).

Southern Nigeria Battalion (old 3rd Niger Battalion).

Gold Coast Regiment (old Gold Coast Constabulary).

Lagos Battalion (old Lagos Constabulary or Hausa Force).

Sierra Leone Battalion (old Sierra Leone Frontier Police Force).

This change will ultimately reduce the strength of the Lagos Force from 798 to 510 rank and file. Time-expired men, save in special cases, have not been re-enlisted during the year. It is expected that though less in point of numbers the service will be more efficient.

Lagos,
1900-1901.

To meet the necessary requirements of the force there was an increase over the previous year in the purchase of arms, £3,256 having been spent under this head. The total expenditure of the force for the year was £24,978.

On the 16th April, 1900, a column, under the command of Captain (now Major) J. G. O. Aplin, C.M.G., left Lagos in order to proceed to the relief of Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Gold Coast, who was besieged at Coomassie.

The force, consisting of the Inspector-General, Captain Aplin (in command), Assistant Inspectors J. E. Cochrane, B. M. Read, and J. C. Ralph, Dr. W. F. McFarlane, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, two native officers, and 256 non-commissioned officers and men, with two seven-pounders and three Maxim guns, landed at Cape Coast on the 19th April, and fought through all opposition to Coomassie. The column was attacked on the 28th April at Essiango, on which occasion Assistant Inspector Cochrane was wounded severely, Captain Aplin and Dr. McFarlane slightly, whilst one man was killed and 15 wounded. On the 29th April the column was again attacked outside Coomassie, the engagement lasting 5½ hours. Assistant Inspector Read was severely wounded, being struck in no less than seven places. Assistant Inspector Ralph was slightly wounded, three men were killed, and 119 wounded. The column entered Coomassie about six o'clock the same evening. At Coomassie they were actively engaged in assisting the beleaguered garrison, and endured the severest hardships incidental to the siege. Owing to the scarcity of food it was decided that the majority of the garrison should leave Coomassie, and endeavour to cut their way through the enemy's lines. This they succeeded in accomplishing on the 23rd June, being accompanied by the Governor and Lady Hodgson, leaving a portion of the Gold Coast Hausas under Captain Bishop, together with Assistant Inspector Ralph and 39 men of the Lagos column, about 100 men in all, to hold the fort.

This small force held out successfully until relieved, on the 16th July, by Colonel Willcocks (now Sir James Willcocks, K.C.M.G., D.S.O.). Assistant Inspector Ralph lost 20 of his men during the 23 days.

A second column of 80 non-commissioned officers and men, under Assistant Inspectors Anderson and Elgee, left Lagos on the 2nd May and took part in the relief operations.

Inspector H. V. Neal and Assistant Inspectors W. D. Byrne and A. H. Blair were on leave in England at the time of the outbreak. They volunteered for service, and joined the expeditionary force at Cape Coast in June.

LAGOS,
1900-1901.

The total number of officers and men lent to the Gold Coast was nine European officers, two native officers, and 348 non-commissioned officers and men, of which 68 non-commissioned officers and men were killed, or died of wounds or disease. The majority of the survivors returned to Lagos in December.

Inspector Neal and Assistant Inspector Cochrane received the Distinguished Service Order, and Assistant Inspector Ralph was gazetted to a company in the 1st Royal Fusiliers for valuable services rendered during the expedition, whilst non-commissioned officers and men were rewarded with promotions and gratuities for wounds and gallant service.

In addition to this contingent, the Colony supplied for the Ashanti expedition 57 carriers. Of this number, 21 returned to Lagos and 36 died on service.

The Police, a civil force armed for use in case of emergency with the Martini-Enfield 303 rifle, is under the command of a Commissioner of Police, assisted by two Assistant Commissioners (European), one Superintendent, and one Assistant Superintendent (native). The strength of the force numbers 398 men, and the sum expended on its maintenance during 1900 amounted to £14,117.

Several of His Majesty's Ships of War on the West African Station visited Lagos during the year; the "Dwarf," a recently built twin-screw first-class gunboat, alone was able to cross the bar.

EDUCATION.

The report for the year by the Inspector is on the whole satisfactory. Attention is invited by the Inspector of Schools to the urgent need of increased accommodation in many of the schools. Mr. Carr states that "although the housing of the schools has improved considerably in contrast with their condition ten years ago, there are yet many points in which they ought to be brought up to a proper standard of healthfulness, orderliness, and attractiveness." In 1891 the proportion of attendance to enrolment was 71·2 per cent., as compared with 77·3 in 1900.

The increase in the number of scholars on the rolls of the schools since 1891, the year when the present Education Code came into force, is 29·6 per cent. During the same period the improvement in average attendance is represented by 40·9 per cent. Two night schools have been recently established in the Colony. One is for the benefit of youths whose education has been neglected, the other is to enable youths engaged in trade to carry on further the education begun in the elementary schools.

In the assisted schools an elementary course in hygiene is to be included among the subjects of instruction. A course of

popular lectures on fever and dysentery has been given by the Resident Medical Officer of the Colonial Hospital, Dr. W. Best, followed by lectures on elementary hygiene by Dr. Strachan, Chief Medical Officer of the Colony.

Lagos,
1900-1901.

The grants in aid of schools for the year amounted to £1,562, which does not include an annual grant of £500 to the Hussey Charity Institution, nor the expenditure of £400 on account of the Government Technical school. The total expenditure on account of education amounted to £3,056.

Grants earned during the year 1900 by each Society, in comparison with those earned in the preceding year, are as under:—

Society.	Grants earned with respect to the year 1899.	Grants earned with respect to the year 1900.	Increase on Grants for 1899.	Decrease from Grants for 1899.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Anglican ...	642 15 6	716 12 6	73 17 0	—
Wesleyan ...	183 2 6	262 5 0	79 2 6	—
Roman Catholic ...	478 18 6	516 1 6	37 3 0	—
United Native African.	32 8 0	67 11 0	35 3 0	—
Total ...	1,337 4 6	1,562 10 0	225 5 6	—

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir William MacGregor, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.D., proceeded on six months' leave of absence on the 1st July. The Government of the Colony was administered by Sir George Denton, K.C.M.G., from the 1st July to the 30th December.

Since Sir William MacGregor's return stringent anti-malarial measures have been taken in the Colony, and Europeans, as well as natives, have been educated in the prevention of malaria and other diseases by lectures delivered in Lagos by the Chief Medical Officer (which are intended to serve as a text book on which school teachers, sanitary inspectors, and nurses will be examined), also by Dr. W. H. Best, and at the out-stations by Dr. E. H. Read (Badagry) and Dr. T. E. Rice (Ibadan), the active operations being the administration of quinine, the use of gauze netting, and the attacking of mosquitos in their breeding ground.

LAGOS,
1900-1901.

Sir George Denton was appointed Administrator of the Gambia on the 3rd November, 1900, and left for Bathurst immediately after Sir William MacGregor returned to the Colony.

LEGISLATION.

During the year 20 Ordinances were passed, in the following order:—

- (1.) Travelling and Field Allowance Ordinance, to alter and regulate the allowances made to officers when travelling.
- (2.) The Imperial Loans Ordinance, to enable the Colony to borrow £792,500 from the Imperial Treasury.
- (3.) The Supply Ordinance.
- (4.) The Railway Loan Ordinance, to increase the borrowing powers of the Colony for the purposes of the railway.
- (5.) The Foreign Recruiting Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, to supply a *casus omissus* in the original Ordinance.
- (6.) The Licensing of Boats Ordinance, to remedy deficiencies experienced in the working of the repealed Ordinance.
- (7.) The Oaths and Affirmation Ordinance, to allow witnesses to affirm instead of taking the oath.
- (8.) The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.
- (9.) Quarantine Amendment Ordinance.
- (10.) The Law Officer Ordinance, an Attorney-General taking the place of the Queen's Advocate.
- (11.) The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance No. 2.
- (12.) The Slander of Women Ordinance, making an imputation on a woman's chastity slanderous *per se*.
- (13.) The Arms and Ammunition Exportation Ordinance, to prevent the exportation of arms to specified places.
- (14.) The Sale of Drugs and Poisons Ordinance, to confine the sale of drugs to qualified persons.
- (15.) The Wild Animals, Birds, and Fish Preservation Ordinance, to check the destruction of rare wild animals, &c.
- (16.) Exportation of Arms Ordinance.
- (17.) Patents Ordinance.
- (18.) The Reprint of Statutes Ordinance, to provide a much-needed new edition of the laws of the Colony.
- (19.) The Customs Tariff Ordinance 1899 Amendment Ordinance.
- (20.) Criminal Procedure Amendment Ordinance, to remedy certain defects which experience brought to light in criminal procedure.

PUBLIC WORKS.

LAGOS,
1900-1901.
—

At a cost of £588 18s. 7d. a slipway has been erected at the beach signal station for the purpose of hauling up the lifeboat purchased during 1900 at a cost of £2,250. The slip is also used for the Government launches when in need of repairs, and effects a great saving in wear and tear, the deterioration of launches in the past having been very great.

The building of a Lunatic and Leper Asylum at Yaba was finished at a cost of £3,138. Quarters for out-stations, Jebu Ode and Shagamu, and Epé Gaol and Hospital were amongst other works completed during 1900.

A large portion of Kokomaiko and other swamp land in Lagos has been partly filled in, at a cost of £1,874. This work (for which prison labour was chiefly used in bringing the loaded trucks from near the beach across Five Cowrie Creek to the swamp) is slow, costly, and laborious.

In the out-districts, roads connecting the different towns and villages were cleared and kept open, at a cost of £2,240.

A sum of £3,000 was provided in the Estimates under Public Works Extraordinary for building new Courts of Justice, but owing to the paucity of funds it was considered necessary to delay work. For this same reason the extension of the workshop and offices of the Public Works Department have been postponed.

A well-equipped laboratory was completed during the year for the use of the Government chemist and for those engaged in medical work at the hospital, at a cost of £650.

Under the vote Public Works Extraordinary, a total sum of £16,928 was spent.

MINERALS.

Six prospecting licences were issued during the year.

Samples of minerals (quartz and other rocks), sand, &c., were examined and reported on by the Government chemist. Gold has been found, but not in paying quantities.

LAND.

Sale of Crown lands, and sums received on account of royalties and concessions, amounted to £185 only.

The method of dealing with swamps and insanitary spots in and about the town of Lagos by sale at a nominal price, under certain conditions of improvement, was continued during the year. Under these conditions the purchaser is required to fill the land to a fixed level with red earth, gravel, or sand, giving attention to adjoining streets, which are to be similarly treated as far as half their width. The whole of the work must be completed within a specified time, at the expiry of which, if

LAGOS,
1900-1901.

the condition of the land is satisfactory, a Crown grant is issued, if not, the land reverts to the Crown. Fifteen blocks were dealt with in this way during the year, various periods being assigned for reclamation and improvement. The results are far from satisfactory. The natives do not appreciate the condition as to level. As soon as the surface of the land appears above water, filling ceases. Nor can they be relied upon to use the material specified unless closely watched.

Several expropriations of land were carried out during the year. Additional area was secured for the railway at Ebute Metta and Iddo, and blocks of land in Victoria Lane were acquired for street improvements. At Apapa, on the north side of the Lagoon, 19 acres were expropriated, and the area laid out in suitable blocks for leasing to the principal firms in Lagos for beaching and storing mahogany.

The Commissioner of Lands reports that there is a growing demand for land among the natives, but they will not go afield.

The expenditure on account of the Land and Survey Department, to the 31st March, 1901, amounted to £1,900.

PENSIONS.

During the year pensions and gratuities amounting to £3,380 19s. 8d. were paid, while the pension list was relieved by the death of pensioners to the extent of £351.

AGRICULTURE.

Model farms have been established at Mamu and Oloke Meji under the supervision of a Superintendent of Forests. An Agricultural and Forest Department is maintained by the Government at a cost of £3,000 a year. The interior resources will, no doubt, be further developed, and the rich lands turned to better account now that the railway has been opened, passing, as it does, through the most important districts of the Protectorate.

In the district of Ikorodu in the Colony a sugar mill has been erected by a Mr. Ricketts, a West Indian negro, who conducts at Agbowa a mission under the auspices of the Colwyn Bay Institute. The mill is very primitive, being constructed of native wood, with a thatched roof, and three rollers only, worked by simple cog-wheels driven by hand labour.

Sugar cane is grown in different parts of the Colony, principally in low-lying lands, but no attempt has been made to manufacture sugar on a large scale. The natives simply eat the raw ripe cane. There is no doubt that sugar cane could be much more largely grown than is the case at present, and that sugar could be manufactured on a large scale, and profitably.

Cotton, which has for some years remained an article for home consumption only, will probably now form a large export of the

Colony, seeds of a superior staple of this product having been recently introduced into the Colony by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., for distribution to farmers, who are now extensively cultivating this product. Several large plantations have cocoa under cultivation which is likely to result beneficially. The soil is suited to the production of most kinds of tropical economic plants.

LAGOS,
1900-1901.

Unfortunately, there are few natives who take to agricultural work, and it is deplorable that among the unemployed there are such a large number of able-bodied men who, because they have been taught at school to write a few ungrammatical sentences in a fairly legible hand, consider it beneath their dignity to follow agricultural pursuits. The capacity of the country still remains undeveloped, and this class of native could, if properly trained, materially help to open up the country in this particular way. Applications for employment in the Secretariat as clerks in Government establishments are constantly being received. It was recently suggested to a candidate that he should take up agricultural work. He was appointed a pupil on one of the model farms, but remained there a few weeks only. He resigned, stating as his reason for so doing that the work he had been given to do was far too hard and too degrading.

Before closing this report, I must refer to the most profound sorrow which was universally felt by the inhabitants of this Colony at the loss sustained, on the 22nd of January, by the death of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. The following is an extract of a minute containing His Excellency the Governor's high appreciation of the feeling of the community with regard to the demise of the Crown, published in the Government Gazette on February 8th:—

"The Governor cannot but feel that he has not been able to reply in sufficiently appreciative terms to the numerous deputations and to the large number of written communications he has received, from private individuals, from Societies, and from native Governments, expressing the deep grief they have felt at the death of our late venerable and beloved Queen. The Governor, therefore, takes this opportunity of informing the public generally that he has been deeply touched by the genuine display of heart-felt sorrow that has weighed so heavily on all classes of the community."

I have, &c.,

C. H. HARLEY MOSELEY,
Colonial Secretary.

LAGOS,
1900-1901.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE for the YEARS 1899 and 1900-1.

Head of Receipt.		1899.	1900-1.	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs...	...	175,696 12 4	193,924 0 0	18,227 7 8	—
Harbour and Light House Dues	...	705 19 0	784 6 0	78 7 0	—
Licenses and Internal Revenue	...	6,744 8 0	6,695 17 6	—	48 10 6
Fees of Court, &c.	...	3,854 9 2	4,730 17 0	876 7 10	—
Postal Revenue	...	1,517 19 0	1,574 6 8	56 7 8	—
Rent of Government Property	...	463 1 11	405 3 5	—	57 18 6
Interest on Investments	...	2,177 13 8	2,210 12 5	32 18 9	—
Miscellaneous	...	1,229 10 2	956 19 6	—	272 10 8
Land Sales	...	402 5 2	185 0 9	—	217 4 5
Total	...	192,791 18 5	211,467 3 3	19,271 8 11	596 4 1

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE
for the YEARS 1899 and 1900-1.

INCREASE,
1900-1901.

Head of Service.	1899.	1900-1.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Governor	5,084 12 8	5,245 10 11	150 18 8	—
Colonial Secretariat ...	8,545 4 8	8,688 16 9	143 12 6	—
Queen's Advocate... ..	918 8 10	827 1 7	—	86 2 8
Treasury	2,420 15 5	2,587 8 8	116 8 8	—
Customs	10,825 8 9	7,108 10 2	—	3,216 18 7
„ Special	—	17 0 0	17 0 0	—
Audit Office	1,244 18 8	1,218 17 11	—	25 15 9
Post „	1,768 17 9	1,848 16 10	79 18 1	—
Printing „	897 4 8	1,078 18 4	181 9 1	—
Harbour Office	2,506 0 10	2,757 6 4	251 5 6	—
„ „ Special	696 8 2	468 8 8	—	222 14 6
Government Vessels ...	8,276 14 10	4,224 9 4	947 14 6	—
„ „ Special	2,554 17 8	—	—	2,554 17 8
Engineer's Department ...	4,181 12 4	8,592 12 7	—	598 19 9
„ „ Special	5 5 0	—	—	5 5 0
Judicial Establishment ...	7,481 14 9	7,110 16 6	—	320 18 8
Ecclesiastical	40 0 0	—	—	40 0 0
Charitable	290 17 9	324 15 5	33 17 8	—
Educational	8,861 9 6	8,056 12 6	—	304 17 0
Hansa Force	80,465 16 9	24,978 15 8	—	5,487 1 1
Police „	14,689 7 11	14,117 9 6	—	521 18 5
„ „ Special	1,084 5 4	—	—	1,084 5 4
Prisons	2,885 8 6	8,022 12 1	187 8 7	—
Medical „	11,569 9 2	11,585 10 9	—	88 18 5
Sanitary	—	2,699 5 4	2,699 5 4	—
Agricultural and Forests...	407 19 0	1,884 5 6	1,428 6 6	—
Botanical station	599 18 10	588 15 9	—	11 8 1
Government Chemist	—	648 4 5	648 4 5	—
Registry Office	821 16 6	839 4 2	7 5 9	—
Transport	8,281 8 5	6,405 18 1	—	1,825 10 4
Carried forward...	120,635 3 4	111,250 7 9	6,885 9 5	16,290 5 0

LAGOS,
1900-1901.*Comparative Statement of Expenditure for the
Years 1899 and 1900-1—cont.*

Head of Service.	1899.	1900-1.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brought forward...	120,655 8 4	111,250 7 9	6,885 9 5	16,390 5 0
Interior	12,109 4 5	10,480 11 7	—	1,628 12 10
„ Special	655 17 10	—	—	655 17 10
Miscellaneous	5,487 18 1	4,103 10 6	—	1,384 2 7
Pensions and Gratuities...	8,425 11 11	8,880 19 8	—	44 12 8
Rent... ..	442 7 2	624 18 6	182 11 4	—
Land and Survey Department.	997 6 7	1,900 14 9	903 8 2	—
Public Works Department	21,028 8 10	11,212 6 5	—	9,811 2 5
„ „ Recurrent	11,159 8 8	9,078 12 0	—	2,085 11 8
Charge on Account: Public Debt.	18,567 16 8	18,169 12 1	4,601 16 5	—
Contribution, Northern Nigeria.	—	—	—	—
Public Works Extraordinary.	28,711 14 1	16,928 2 9	—	11,783 11 4
Works Chargeable to Surplus Balances.	5,108 18 10	—	—	5,108 18 10
Total	228,289 1 0	187,124 16 0	12,578 4 4	48,787 9 4

RETURN showing DISTRIBUTION of MEDICAL OFFICERS and NURSES of the MEDICAL DEPARTMENT in LAGOS and OUT-STATIONS, with NUMBER of WARDS in the various HOSPITALS and BEDS assigned to each.

Lagos Hospital (under the Resident Medical Officer).

Ward.	Beds.	
B	11	For native female patients.
C	17	For native male patients.
D	16	For native male patients.
E	10	For European patients.

Three nurses are attached to each ward and are assisted by the nurses in training.

Return showing Distribution of Medical Officers and Nurses—cont.

LAGOS,
1900-1901.*Small-pox Hospital (under the District Medical Officer).*

No.	Ward.	Beds.	—
1	Male.	10	One male nurse. One female nurse.
2	"	10	
3	Female.	8	
4	Convalescent.	8	

Badagry Hospital (in charge of a Medical Officer).

No.	Ward.	Beds.	—
1	European.	1	One male nurse.
2	Native.	5	

Epé Hospital (in charge of a Medical Officer).

No.	Ward.	Beds.	—
1	Native.	8	One male nurse and one district vaccinator.

Ibádan Dispensary (in charge of a Medical Officer).

One dispenser.

Ereko Dispensary (in charge of a Medical Officer).

One 2nd class dispenser.

Lagos,
1900-1901.

Return showing Distribution of Medical Officers and
Nurses—*cont.*

Yaba Leper Asylum (in charge of a Medical Officer).

No.	Ward.	Beds.	—
1	Male.	12	One male nurse.
2	Female.	12	One female nurse.

Yaba Lunatic Asylum.

Not yet opened.

*Ebute Metta Dispensary (in charge of Medical Officer, Yaba
Asylum).*

One 2nd class dispenser.

*Lagos Prison Hospital and Dispensary (in charge of
Medical Officer, Ereko Dispensary).*

No.	Ward.	Beds.	—
1	Male.	11	
2	Female.	2	One 2nd class dispenser.

*Jebu Ode (supplied with Medicine Chest in charge of the
Officer in Charge).*

The Medical Officer of Epé visits Jebu Ode weekly and Shagamu and Ikorodu every fortnight. The vaccinators of Epé and Shagamu also attend at Jebu Ode and Ikorodu when necessary.

*Shagamu (supplied with Medicine Chest in charge of the
Officer in Charge).*

One district vaccinator.

Return showing Distribution of Medical Officers and
Nurses—*cont.*LAGOS,
1900-1901.*Ikorodu, Saki, Meko, Ilesha and Ode Ondo.*

These districts are supplied each with a medicine chest in charge of the Officer in Charge, or Travelling Commissioner, as the case may be.

*Aro (in charge of a Medical Officer).*RETURN of IN and OUT-PATIENTS treated at the LAGOS
HOSPITAL for THREE YEARS, 1898-1900.

—				1898.	1899.	1900.
In-patients	...	...	...	682	694	782
Out-patients	...	...	...	4,572	4,294	5,298

LAOS, RETURN showing PRINCIPAL ARTICLES of IMPORT into
1900-1901. MARCH,

Articles.	1896.	1897.
Cotton goods ... pkgs.	19,683	£ 850,258 6 8 15,861
Salt tons	5,251. 16 2 0	£ 7,434 8 8 4,645 8 0 0
Spirits galls.	1,223,207	£ 57,763 9 10 1,916,948
Tobacco lbs.	749,350	£ 15,127 5 7 817,169
Wines galls.	10,590	£ 3,268 6 8 11,071
Other articles	—	£ 467,623 0 1 —
Total... ..	—	£ 901,474 17 1 770,510 16 10

RETURN showing PRINCIPAL ARTICLES of EXPORT from
to MARCH, *

Articles.	1896.	1897.
Mahogany logs	22	£ 275 0 0 1,722
Palm kernels tons	47,649 6 8 8	£ 848,206 8 8 41,298 11 1 0
Palm oil galls.	3,154,383	£ 169,150 16 6 1,858,968
Rubber lbs.	6,484,365	£ 347,721 2 11 4,458,827
Other Articles	—	£ 124,910 2 4 —
Total	—	£ 975,263 5 0 810,974 10 11

LAGOS
1901.

NUAL.

1898.					
19,238	£	s.	d.	14,939	
6,336 14 0 16	339,778 18 9	8,480 10 7	5,846 11 2 1	7,119	
1,854,093	76,611 0 2	1,042,574	61,489 8 10		
869,111	19,240 16 1	946,684	19,964 7 0	971,000	
8 40	3,108 15 9	9,802	12,274 3 3	7,942	
--	461,136 9 10	--	560,230 11 11	--	881,000
--	908,351 6 2	--	966,594 17 10	--	806,529 8 13

LAGOS during FIVE YEARS, 1896-1899, and APRIL, 1900,
1901.

1898.			1899.			April, 1900, to March, 1901.		
3,406	£	s.	d.	7,680	£	s.	d.	
42,774 18 0 16	12,944 12 8	362,539 4 8	49,501 7 3 2	34,737 19 3	10,437	44,878 9 7		
1,889,939	97,337 15 10	3,292,881	168,457 14 6	412,817 6 10	47,738 8 0 10	399,308 4 11		
3,778,266	285,409 14 6	1,993,525	160,314 16 4	361,931	29,385 5 2			
--	124,097 15 9	--	139,606 5 9	--	176,275 18 8			
--	882,329 3 0	--	915,934 2 8	--	831,257 18 4			

LAGOS, RETURN showing PRINCIPAL ARTICLES of IMPORT into
1900-1901. MARCH,

Articles.	1896.			1897.		
Cotton goods ... pkgs.	19,688	£	s. d.	15,861	£	s. d.
Salt tons	5,251. 16 2 0	7,484	8 8	4,645 8 0 0	6,841	0 6
Spirits galls.	1,228,207	57,768	9 10	1,216,948	60,788	11 5
Tobacco lbs.	749,350	15,127	5 7	817,169	16,181	16 0
Wines galls.	10,590	3,268	6 8	11,071	3,649	7 11
Other articles	—	467,628	0 1	—	885,918	18 2
Total... ..	—	901,474	17 1	—	770,510	16 10

RETURN showing PRINCIPAL ARTICLES of EXPORT from
to MARCH, *

Articles.	1896.			1897.		
Mahogany logs	22	£	s. d.	1,722	£	s. d.
Palm kernels tons	47,649 6 3 8	848,206	8 8	41,298 11 1 0	806,884	0 10
Palm oil galls.	8,154,383	159,150	16 6	1,858,968	97,590	11 6
Rubber lbs.	6,484,365	847,721	2 11	4,458,827	288,184	17 2
Other Articles	—	124,910	2 4	—	117,078	8 2
Total	—	975,268	5 0	—	810,974	10 11

LAGOS during FIVE YEARS, 1896-1899, and APRIL, 1900, to ^{LAGOS} 1900-19 01
1901.

1898.			1899.			April, 1900, to March, 1901.		
19,238	£	s. d.	14,989	£	s. d.	13,240	£	s. d.
6,336 14 0 16	889,778	18 9	5,846 11 2 1	806,517	4 8	5,766 17 8	886,980	2 8
1,854,098	8,480	10 7	1,042,574	7,119	7 2	907,657	7,990	0 9
869,111	76,611	0 2	946,684	61,489	8 10	922,060	58,068	12 0
8 40	19,240	16 1	9,802	19,964	7 0	7,942	18,378	16 10
—	8,108	15 9	—	12,274	8 8	—	8,106	1 1
—	461,186	9 10	—	560,280	11 11	—	882,006	18 7
—	908,851	6 2	—	966,594	17 10	—	806,529	6 11

LAGOS during FIVE YEARS, 1896-1899, and APRIL, 1900,
1901.

1898.			1899.			April, 1900, to March, 1901.		
3,406	£	s. d.	7,680	£	s. d.	10,497	£	s. d.
42,774 18 0 16	12,944	12 8	49,501 7 8 2	84,787	19 8	47,788 8 0 10	44,878	9 7
1,889,989	862,589	4 8	3,292,881	412,817	6 10	2,787,127	899,808	4 11
3,778,266	97,887	15 10	1,998,525	168,457	14 6	861,981	181,415	0 0
—	285,409	14 6	—	160,814	16 4	—	29,885	5 2
—	124,097	15 9	—	189,606	5 9	—	176,275	18 8
—	882,829	8 0	—	915,984	2 8	—	881,257	18 4

LAGOS,
1900-1901.IMPORT and EXPORT of SPECIE during FIVE YEARS,
1896-1899, and APRIL, 1900, to MARCH, 1901.*Import.*

1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	April, 1900, to March, 1901.
£ s. d. 138,298 8 0	£ s. d. 69,504 13 9	£ s. d. 148,820 0 0	£ s. d. 160,325 0 0	£ s. d. 59,400 0 0

Export.

1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	April, 1900, to March, 1901.
£ s. d. 68,870 5 1	£ s. d. 69,795 18 6	£ s. d. 61,217 15 5	£ s. d. 81,576 10 5	£ s. d. 126,020 3 4

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 337.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 308.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1901.



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1901.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
314	Hong Kong	1899
315	Southern Nigeria	1899-1900
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899-1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899-1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda... ..	"
323	St. Helena	"
384	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados... ..	"
327	Bahamas... ..	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia... ..	"
333	Seychelles	"
334	Falkland Islands	"
335	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1900
336	British New Guinea	1899-1900

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand... ..	Forests
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Report on operations in New Territory during 1900.

No. 337.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 308.)

ACTING GOVERNOR SIR G. MELVILLE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Antigua,
10th September, 1901.

(Extract.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1900, together with a report thereon by Mr. E. B. Jarvis, Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, submitted by Mr. Foster, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Antigua,
10th September, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1900, together with a report thereon which has been prepared by Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, the Chief Clerk in this Office, to be transmitted by Your Excellency to the Secretary of State.

I have, &c.,

E. A. FOSTER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency

Sir G. Melville, K.C.M.G.,
Acting Governor-in-Chief,
Leeward Islands.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF
THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1900

I.—FINANCIAL.

(a.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The Revenue for the year 1900 is returned at £119,450, exclusive of grants in aid from the Imperial Government, showing a net decrease of £2,111 as compared with the Revenue of the year 1899, which amounted to £121,561.

The following table shows the amount of Revenue collected in each Presidency during the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1900 as compared with the previous year:—

Presidency.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	Increase 1900 over 1899.	Decrease 1900 under 1899.
Antigua ...	£ 54,951	£ 46,330	£ 39,663	£ 42,822	£ 42,652	—	£ 170
St. Kitts-Nevis	49,561	45,247	40,430	42,809	39,904	—	2,905
Dominica ...	24,904	23,610	24,570	26,155	28,113	1,957	—
Montserrat ...	7,775	7,906	6,199	6,790	6,664	—	126
Virgin Islands	1,469	1,675	1,715	2,984	2,117	—	867
Total ...	138,660	124,768	112,577	121,561	119,450	1,957	4,068

Net decrease of revenue in 1900, as compared with 1899, £2,111.

A comparative statement of Revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1899 and 1900 will be found in section D. of the Blue Book.

Under the head of "Customs," there were in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis decreases of £1,093 and £710 respectively, while Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands exhibit increases of £1,462, £166, and £74 respectively.

Under the head of "Port and Harbour Dues," Dominica is the only Presidency showing an increase, which amounts to

£171. Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands showing decreases of £62, £570, £47, and £9 respectively.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.

In Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, there are decreases under the head "Excise," of £432, £740, £278, and £269 respectively.

Under the head "Taxes," increases appear in Antigua of £561, Dominica £301, and Montserrat £26; decreases of £383 and £3 appearing in St. Kitts-Nevis and the Virgin Islands.

The Revenue derived from "Licenses" exhibits decreases of £133 in Antigua, £71 in St. Kitts-Nevis, £56 in Dominica, while there are slight increases of £17 in Montserrat and £2 in the Virgin Islands.

Under the head "Post Office" there is a remarkable decrease of Revenue, amounting to £1,158 in the Virgin Islands. In the year 1899, there was an increase of £1,474, which, as pointed out in last year's report, was attributable to the new issue of stamps, which were largely purchased on their first appearance.

Expenditure.

The aggregate Expenditure of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1900 amounted to £131,973, as against £143,285 for the previous year, showing a decrease of £11,312.

The following table shows the Expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1900 as compared with 1899:—

Presidency.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	Increase 1900 over 1899.	Decrease 1900 under 1899.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	57,345	53,417	55,586	51,959	49,435	—	2,524
St. Kitts-Nevis	56,501	51,775	44,659	47,415	43,964	—	3,451
Dominica ...	25,189	24,062	24,648	25,083	26,780	1,697	—
Montserrat ...	8,732	9,895	11,936	16,608	9,597	—	7,011
Virgin Islands	1,670	1,777	1,783	2,220	2,197	—	23
Total ...	149,437	140,926	138,612	143,285	131,973	1,697	13,009

Net decrease of expenditure in 1900, as compared with 1899, £11,312.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.

A comparison of the items of Expenditure in each Presidency during the year 1900 with those of 1899, as given in section D. of the Blue Book, shows that the increases or decreases occur under the following heads:—

“Federal Contribution.”—The decrease of £526 under this head is due to the reduction of Expenditure by the General Government.

“Board of Health.”—The decrease, £486, is due to the merging of the “Board of Health” into the “St. John’s City Board.”

A large decrease of £3,365 appears under the head “Miscellaneous.” In the year 1899 an increase of £2,291 appeared, which, as explained in the report for that year, was accountable for by the Expenditure in St. Kitts-Nevis, owing to the refund of £2,225 for land tax and export duty, and an unforeseen expenditure in Montserrat of £359 on account of the hurricane in 1899.

“Post Office.”—The decrease of £253 under this head is due to the cost of the dies imported in the previous year for the new issue of postage stamps in the Virgin Islands.

“Telegraphs.”—The decrease of £260 under this head is accounted for by the reduction by £200 in Dominica of the subsidy paid by that Presidency to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

The large decrease under “Public Works Extraordinary” is explained by the large amount which was spent during the year 1899 consequent on the hurricane.

Briefly summarised, the Expenditure of Antigua shows a decrease of £2,524 in 1900 as compared with 1899, St. Kitts-Nevis of £3,451, Montserrat of £7,011, and Virgin Islands of £23, while Dominica exhibits an increase of £1,697.

(b.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

The following alterations were made in the taxation of the various Presidencies:—

In Antigua, by Ordinance No. 9 of 1900, the Income Tax levied by Ordinance No. 6 of 1899 on persons other than officials was repealed, and in lieu thereof the specific licences mentioned in Schedule C. of Ordinance No. 9 of 1900 were imposed. The income tax of 3 per cent. levied on officials’ salaries by Ordinance No. 6 of 1899 was reduced to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on those salaries which did not exceed £100 per annum.

By Ordinance No. 10 of 1900 the Land Tax for that year was fixed, with respect to cane lands, at 2s. 6d. per acre.

In St. Kitts-Nevis, by Ordinance No. 6 of 1900, additional customs duties were imposed on alcoholic liquors, tea, and tobacco. The duty on ale, beer, stout, &c., was increased from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen reputed quarts, and from 6d. to 7d. in casks.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.
—

Brandy from 5s. to 8s. per gallon.

Whiskey from 4s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. per gallon.

Tea from 4d. per lb. to 6d. per lb.

Leaf tobacco from 9d. to 11d., and manufactured tobacco, including snuff, from 2s. 6d. to 2s. 11d. per lb.

No change in taxation took place either in Dominica or the Virgin Islands.

In Montserrat, by Ordinance No. 5 of 1900, every acre or part of an acre of land which was devastated by the hurricane in the year 1899, and which has been replanted in limes, oranges, coffee, or cocoa, was fixed at the sum of 6d. for five successive years and thereafter at 1s.

(c.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Federal Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1900.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Presidencies—			Presidencies—		
St Kitts-Nevis ...	446	3 3	Virgin Islands...	116	14 1
Montserrat ...	626	3 5	Antigua ...	200	0 6
			Dominica ...	82	17 2
Money Order Accounts—					
Canada ...	232	19 0	Money Order Accounts—		
United States ...	556	12 7	Barbados ...	600	0 0
Jamaica ...	28	8 1	Bermuda ...	11	10
			Trinidad ...	98	5 8
Deposit Accounts—					
Land Assurance Fund ...			Investment Accounts—		
			Land Assurance Fund	1,600	0 0
Sundry Creditors—			Sundry Debtors—		
Dr. Morris ...	9	8 2	Imperial Government	85	19 11
Police Reward Fund ...	6	2 6	E. A. Foster ...	1	13 4
P. O. Guarantee Fund ...	20	6 10			
			Cash—		
General Account ...			Treasurer ...	471	2 2
			Crown Agents ...	485	7 7
Total ...			Total ...	956	9 9
				3,742	12 3

PRESIDENCY OF ANTIGUA.
COLONY OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON
31ST DECEMBER, 1900.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.

PRESIDENCY

COLONY OF THE

Statement of Assets and

Liabilities.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits to be repaid on account of Money Orders.	180 14 2	
„ to Cover duties	2 11 4	
„ Copyright duties	3 8	
„ Revenue Defence Fund ...	16 17 6	
„ City Fund	33 19 3	
„ London University and Cambridge fees.	5 0 0	
		239 5 11
Balance due General Government Leeward Islands.		200 0 6½
„ Presidency of Dominica ...	4 6 5	
„ „ „ Montserrat ...	5 3 5	
„ Unrepresented Estates ...	353 3 6	
„ Escheated „ ...	146 11 6	
„ Bankruptcy „ ...	73 13 3	
„ Registrar (unclaimed balances)	20 19 4½	
„ Prison Officers Fine Fund ...	37 11 11	
„ Official Receiver account Globe Premises.	525 0 0	
		1,166 9 4½
Drafts on Crown Agents	3,320 0 0	
Loan Works Balance of Appropriation...	7,909 18 4	
		11,229 18 4
Excess of Assets		12,835 14 2
		987 17 10½
Total		13,823 12 0½

LEeward
Islands,
1900.

PRESIDENCY OF

Statement of Assets and

Liabilities.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance due to Sinking Fund—		
Basseterre Improvement		809 3 1
Crown Agents		882 19 8
Drafts on Crown Agents		2,101 1 7
General Post Office London		1 0 2
Family Remittances		16 13 4
Other Presidencies		135 5 11
Public Works Loan 1891	1,478 1 8	
" " " 1893	673 18 10	
Money Order Accounts United Kingdom	113 3 8	2,152 0 6
Barbados	84 14 9	
Trinidad	1 3 1	
Canada	16 3	
United States	11 7 3	211 5 0
Planters Loan Fund	550 0 0	
Revenue Defence Fund... ..	73 10 7	
Deposits Repayable to secure duties	1 5 0	
Provost Marshal's Deposit account	4 19 7	
Unrepresented Estates	22 7 0	
Hurricane Relief Fund	72 17 4	
Excess of Assets		724 19 6
Total		678 12 5
		7,713 1 2

ST. CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.*Liabilities on 31st December, 1900.*

Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In Colonial Bank on Current Account	3,507 7 8	
In Treasury Chest Anguilla	10 16 2	3,518 3 10
G. H. Turner		27 1 8
General Government Leeward Islands	446 3 3	
Other Presidencies	4 15 0	450 18 3
Money Order—		
Leeward Islands	504 4 6	
Windward Islands	26 17 7	
British Guiana	44 10 8	
Bermuda	928 11 2	1,504 3 11
Personal Advances		1,308 13 6
Remittances in Transit		904 0 0
Total		7,713 1 2

PRESIDENCY OF DOMINICA.

Statement of the Assets and Liabilities on General Revenue Account on 31st December, 1900.

[illegible]

PRESIDENCY OF MONTserrat.
Statement of the Assets and Liabilities, 31st December, 1900.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits to be repaid :—			Cash ... ..	...	1,372 11 1
Unrepresented Estates Reserve Fund.	3 17 9		Advances—		
Botanical Department Advance Account.	66 10 11		General Government	626 3 5	
Registrar's Deposit Account ...	5 16 8		St. Kitts-Nevis	53 1 0	
Hurricane Relief Fund Deposit Account.	25 0 0		Dominica	1 14 11	
Provost Marshal's Deposit Account.	3 3 11		United Kingdom Post Office Account.	4 17 10	
Escheated Estates Account ...	9 13 6		Antigua	5 3 5	
Unrepresented Estates Account	126 11 5		Imperial Hurricane Relief Grant Advance Account.	950 5 8	
Sundry Money Order Accounts...	960 2 1		Sundry Money Order Accounts ...	30 18 0	1,672 4 3
Balance due to Crown Agents ...		1,200 16 3	Drafts and Remittances		1,250 0 0
Excess of Assets		1,163 9 2	Total... ..		4,294 15 4
Total		1,980 9 11			
		4,294 15 4			

LEeward
ISLANDS,
1900.

LEeward
Islands,
1900.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Statement of the Assets and Liabilities on the 31st December, 1900.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General Government	116 14 1		Liberated Africans		0 19 1
Presidency of Antigua	17 5 10	133 19 11	Crown Agents		524 2 10
Money Orders—			Advances Account		50 11 10
United Kingdom	1 9 3		Colonial Bank, Antigua, Deposit Account.		300 0 0
Canada	6 10 0		Colonial Bank, S. Thomas, Current Account.	0 15 8	
United States	0 4 0		Treasurer	115 11 0½	
Barbados	51 5 10		Advances and Deposits, Botanic Department.		116 6 8½
Leeward Islands	96 19 3				58 18 0
Windward Islands	4 9 7	160 17 11	Total... ..		1,050 18 5½
Provost Marshal's Deposit Account		1 3 8			
Unrepresented Estates Accounts ...		8 0 9			
Land Titles Assurance Fund		0 8 4			
G.P.O. London		86 7 5			
Excess of Assets		390 18 0			
		660 0 5½			
Total		1,050 18 5½			

NOTE.—The apparent excess of Assets in the cases of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat is nominal, being due to advance payments from the Imperial Grant in aid of Deficiency of General Revenue in various West Indian colonies.

(d.) PUBLIC DEBT.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.
—

The Public Debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, which, on the 31st December, 1899, stood at £294,121, was, at the close of 1900, reduced to £293,321, £200 having been paid on account of the Antigua Savings' Bank Loan of 1881, £500 on account of the Basseterre Improvement Loan, 1891, and £100 on account of the Montserrat Water Works Loan of 1879.

The Dominica Water Works Loan of £5,900 (the sinking fund of which is nearly sufficient to repay it) appears in the statement of Public Debt given below, although this loan has now been assumed by the Town Board of Roseau and is regarded as a liability of the Municipality.

There is no public debt in the Virgin Islands.

The following table shows the individual liabilities of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, with a column showing the amounts to the credit of the various sinking fund accounts on the 31st December, 1900:—

Presidency.	Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Fund.
Antigua	£ 137,071	£ 21,769
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	73,950	6,991
Dominica	70,900	12,074
Montserrat	11,400	957
Total	293,321	41,791

(e.) CURRENCY.

There is nothing to be remarked under this head. The bank rates of exchange remained unaltered.

(f.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue of the St. John's City Board for the year, inclusive of the grant in aid from General Revenue, amounted to £2,745 1s. 5d., and the expenditure to £2,740 16s. 9d.

**LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.**

The St. John's City Board, as established under Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, is a corporate body, established for the government of the city of St. John and its vicinity, and consists of 12 members, six of whom are nominated by the Governor and six are elected by the inhabitants.

The control and upkeep of the public library, market, cemetery, and the duties of the sanitary authorities, were assumed by the City Board during the year 1900, and the waterworks and fire brigade are to be taken over by them early in 1901.

The future policy of the Board will be to secure higher sanitation, and improve the condition of the several departments that have been placed under their management.

(g.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The only municipal debt is that of the Roseau Town Board, viz., the Water Works Loan of £5,900. As against this, a sinking fund, amounting to £5,370 0s. 11d., has been accumulated at the end of 1900.

The Roseau Town Board of Dominica was established in 1896, and its Revenue and Expenditure has been as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1896	£ 754	£ 714
1897	929	925
1898	978	964
1899	920	890
1900	1,084	1,033

A Town Board for Basseterre, St. Kitts, is being established.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(a.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total value of the imports of the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the year 1900, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £346,395, as against £340,112 in 1899, being an increase of £6,283.

The following table shows the total value of imports for each of the past five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1900 as compared with the previous year.

10024—6

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Country whence imported.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	Increase 1900 over 1899.	Decrease 1900 under 1899.
United Kingdom	£ 178,917	£ 133,497	£ 134,071	£ 148,393	£ 141,131	£ —	£ 7,262
British Colonies	57,949	41,694	41,308	45,259	55,810	10,551	—
United States of America... ..	149,982	124,064	113,864	137,224	140,022	2,798	—
Other Foreign Countries	15,350	13,402	10,733	9,236	9,432	196	—
Total	402,198	312,657	299,976	340,112	346,395	13,545	7,262

Net increase in value of Imports in 1900, as compared with 1899, £6,283.

The return of internal trade between the presidencies shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported as £25,786 in 1900 as against £25,255 in 1899, being an increase of £531.

The following summary of imports gives the aggregate value of the various articles or goods imported during each of the last five years and also shows the increase or decrease in 1900 as compared with the previous year :—

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

Articles.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	Increase 1900 over 1899.	Decrease 1900 under 1899.
Live Animals	£ 2,649	£ 978	£ 2,425	£ 1,954	£ 1,210	—	£ 744
Foodstuffs	158,378	132,320	132,728	141,192	140,507	—	685
Drinks	13,993	11,443	9,375	9,629	10,192	563	—
Narcotics	3,792	3,722	3,142	3,377	3,181	—	196
Raw Materials	16,953	9,947	8,310	16,029	15,717	—	312
Manufactured Articles, Textile ...	91,376	67,688	62,872	74,876	64,677	—	10,199
Do. Metal	20,873	16,912	13,081	16,994	24,430	7,436	—
Other Manufactures	92,684	69,540	63,448	74,712	77,319	2,607	—
	400,698	312,551	295,381	338,763	337,233	10,006	12,136
Coin and Bullion	1,500	106	4,595	1,349	9,162	7,813	—
Total	402,198	312,657	299,976	340,112	346,395	18,419	12,136

The above table shows an increase of £6,283 in the total value of imports in 1900 as compared with the year 1899.

The classes of imports which show decreases are:—

	£
Live animals	744
Foodstuffs	685
Narcotics	196
Raw materials	312
Manufactured articles, textile	10,199

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.
—

Those showing increases being:—

Drinks	563
Manufactured articles, metal	7,436
Other manufactures	2,607

Exports.

The total amount of exports during the year 1900 (exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, which amounted to £21,991) was £279,020, as against £351,429 in 1899, showing a decrease of £23,409.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years distinguishing the countries to which the various articles were sent, and showing the increase or decrease in 1900, as compared with 1899.

TOTAL EXPORTS.

Countries to which exported.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	Increase 1900 over 1899.	Decrease 1900 under 1899.
United Kingdom	£ 44,703	£ 49,582	£ 62,563	£ 60,207	£ 61,673	£ 1,466	£ —
British Colonies	54,027	38,925	28,075	41,722	45,547	3,825	—
United States of America...	196,141	223,150	178,348	234,254	154,121	—	80,133
Other Foreign Countries	21,639	16,839	17,417	15,246	17,679	2,433	—
Total	316,510	328,496	286,403	351,429	279,020	7,724	80,133

Net decrease in value of Exports in 1900, as compared with 1899, £72,409.

It will be observed that there is a large decrease of £80,133 in exports to the United States of America, which is accounted for by the large decrease in the output of sugar which was less in 1900 by 7,431 tons, valued at £72,292, than in 1899.

The export trade between the various Presidencies of the Colony of the Leeward Islands amounted to £21,991 in 1900, as against £21,772 in 1899, showing a slight increase of £219.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.

The amount of export trade between the several Presidencies of the Leeward Islands Colony for the last ten years is as follows:—

Year.			Amount.
			£
1891	...	...	30,460
1892	...	...	33,582
1893	...	...	22,185
1894	...	...	25,381
1895	...	...	20,323
1896	...	...	15,024
1897	...	...	11,422
1898	...	...	12,613
1899	...	...	21,772
1900	...	...	21,991

The Federal Steamship "Tyne," which was subsidised to run between the several Presidencies, was discontinued in June, 1896, and it is interesting to note the large falling off in the trade between the Presidencies which has taken place from that date.

The following table shows the value of the principal exports during the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1900 as compared with 1899.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Articles of Export.	1896.		1897.		1898.		1899.		1900.		Increase 1900 over 1899.		Decrease 1900 under 1899.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sugar ... Tons	32,421	228,612	28,555	236,209	20,065	174,098	22,815	230,029	15,384	157,737	—	—	7,431	72,292
Molasses Puns.	9,565	14,825	7,483	12,506	4,204	8,595	7,292	20,152	6,142	22,853	—	2,701	1,150	—
Rum ... Galls.	30,656	1,112	62,686	2,265	48,451	8,579	28,721	1,554	16,852	1,003	—	—	13,869	551
Coffee ... lbs.	38,528	1,280	20,553	722	21,958	537	16,037	377	5,957	207	—	—	10,080	170
Cocos ... lbs.	944,349	12,823	593,680	9,007	1,112,862	26,362	868,441	20,872	1,086,173	24,285	167,782	3,913	—	—
Lime and Lime Juice.	—	19,240	—	24,514	—	25,753	—	32,780	—	82,277	—	—	—	503
Total ...		277,892		285,223		286,924		305,264		238,362		6,614		78,516

From the preceding table it will be observed that there was, in 1900, a decrease of 7,431 tons of sugar valued at £72,292.

There was also a decrease of 1,150 puncheons of molasses, but an increase of £2,701 in value.

The increase in the output of cocoa from Dominica was 167,732 lbs. and the increase in value £3,913.
The average amount of sugar exported during the past five years is 23,848 tons, so that the quantity exported in 1900 was 8,464 tons below that average.
The following table shows the export of sugar from each Presidency for each of the last ten years :—

Presidency.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Antigua	Tons. 12,091	Tons. 15,302	Tons. 14,566	Tons. 12,342	Tons. 7,219	Tons. 15,100	Tons. 12,744	Tons. 6,928	Tons. 10,041	Tons. 7,603
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	12,898	17,872	17,042	16,896	18,894	14,804	11,435	12,387	11,943	7,451
Dominica	1,636	2,215	1,474	1,050	844	844	565	339	278	107
Montserrat	1,034	2,509	1,660	1,694	631	1,672	810	411	553	223
Virgin Islands ...	—	8	4	3	4	1	1	—	—	—
Total	27,659	37,906	34,746	31,985	27,592	32,421	28,555	20,065	22,815	15,384

The average export of sugar for the last ten years from the Colony of the Leeward Islands is 27,912½ tons.

(b.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine at Soufrière, and there are also mines in the Virgin Islands at Virgin Gorda. Negotiations are being entered into for the working of the latter.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900]

Sugar is the staple product in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

Rum is manufactured chiefly in St. Kitts. This Presidency exported 15,323 gallons in 1900.

Lime juice is manufactured in Dominica and Montserrat, bay oil in Dominica, and arrowroot in Montserrat.

There are no organized fisheries.

(c.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.

The estimated acreage of cultivated land in Antigua is 16,481 acres, out of 52,794 acres, in St. Kitts-Nevis (exclusive of Anguilla) 18,268, out of 75,520 acres. In Dominica there are about 177,549 acres of uncultivated land, of which about 80,000 acres are Crown lands suitable for cultivation.

The following short description of the work being carried on by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies in the various Presidencies of the Leeward Islands will be found of interest:—

There is a Federal Laboratory in Antigua, where the chemical work relating to agriculture is carried on. The analytical chemist visits the various islands of the Colony in connection with the experimental and other work which is being carried on.

Botanic stations are established in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat, each under the charge of a curator. The work of these stations includes investigations with a view to the improvement of existing staple crops, the introduction of trees and plants of greater vigour and productiveness, as well as improvement in agricultural methods.

In Antigua and St. Kitts particular attention is being paid to the sugar cane, the selection of the most robust and productive variety of cane being a question of vital importance to the sugar industry; in each of these islands there are local experimental stations, situate in different parts of the islands, where the cultivation of many varieties of cane is being carried on systematically under the direction of the officers of the Department.

In Dominica, attention is particularly directed to cocoa and limes, the work of the botanical stations in connection with these having met with much local appreciation.

At all the stations attention is being given to the improvement of food crops of local interest and importance.

With the aid of the Department efforts are being made to introduce the teaching of the principles of agriculture into the elementary schools. Courses of lectures on the principles of agriculture are being given to teachers by the Federal Analytical Chemist, assisted by the curators of botanic stations.

The work of the Department of Agriculture is as yet in its infancy, though considerable progress has already been made, and it is already felt that the work will have considerable influence upon the agricultural development of the Colony. The West Indian Bulletin, or Journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, affords much information concerning the work of the Department in the Leeward Islands and elsewhere.

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(d.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LANDS.

The general value of land varies so greatly in different Presidencies, and according to its suitability for sugar or other cultivation, that it is almost impossible to obtain reliable statistics as to value. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land may be taken at the present moment to range between £4 and £8 per acre.

(e.) SHIPPING.

The following table shows the total tonnage of both steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1900, distinguishing between British and Foreign vessels:—

SUMMARY SHOWING TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED.

	British.						Foreign.						Total.	
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.				
	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.		
Antigua ...	211,988	211,988	423,976	7,606	7,480	15,086	8,828	3,828	7,656	2,805	2,569	4,874	19,960	451,592
St. Kitts ...	199,675	199,675	399,850	6,688	6,647	13,285	11,871	11,871	23,742	5,887	5,948	11,835	25,120	448,212
Nevis ...	84,425	84,425	68,860	1,899	1,813	2,712	—	—	—	277	216	493	8,205	72,055
Anguilla ...	—	—	—	1,424	1,464	2,878	—	—	—	34	84	68	2,946	2,946
Dominica ...	220,482	220,432	440,864	3,945	3,919	7,864	7,561	7,561	15,122	1,918	1,918	3,836	11,700	467,686
Montserrat ...	89,804	89,804	179,608	6,257	6,260	12,517	2,871	2,871	5,742	441	422	863	18,880	198,780
V. Islands...	—	—	—	5,468	5,486	10,954	—	—	—	561	561	1,122	12,076	12,076
Total ...	756,824	766,824	1,512,648	82,787	82,569	65,296	26,181	26,131	52,262	11,423	11,668	23,091	88,887	1,658,297

Comparing the above figures with those for 1899 there appears an increase of 29,108 tons in steam vessels in 1900 and a decrease of 3,028 tons in sailing vessels.

If we examine the figures for each individual Presidency with those of 1899, it will be found that in Antigua there was an increase of 13,912 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 6,479 tons in sailing vessels.

In St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla) there was an increase of 3,420 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 476 tons in sailing vessels.

In Dominica there was an increase of 916 tons in steam vessels and an increase of 1,784 tons in sailing vessels.

In Montserrat there was an increase of 10,860 tons in steam vessels and an increase of 1,441 in sailing vessels.

In the Virgin Islands there was an increase of 702 tons in sailing vessels.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1900 as compared with the previous year.

Presidency.		1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	Increase 1900 over 1899.	Decrease 1900 under 1899.
Antigua	...	Tons. 468,612	Tons. 445,948	Tons. 429,168	Tons. 444,159	Tons. 451,592	Tons. 7,433	Tons. —
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	473,407	491,629	501,878	520,269	523,213	2,944	—
Dominica	...	401,051	407,460	456,998	464,986	467,686	2,700	—
Montserrat	...	276,272	228,715	208,430	186,429	198,730	12,301	—
Virgin Islands	...	11,924	11,545	11,307	11,374	12,076	702	—
Total of Colony		1,631,266	1,585,297	1,607,781	1,627,217	1,653,297	26,080	—

Net increase in 1900 over 1899 26,080 tons.

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III.—LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands passed seven Acts during the year 1900. Of these the most important were: Act No. 1 of 1900, "An Act to authorise the adoption or establishment of a system of insurance of postal packets and parcels, and to validate certain things already done in connection with the same subject matter," and Act No. 7 of 1900, "An Act to amend Act No. 2 of 1882, intituled 'An Act for the union of the Presidencies of Saint Christopher and Nevis,'" by which the Legislative Council of Saint Christopher and Nevis was reduced to six "official members" and six "unofficial members," with the Governor and Administrator.

In Antigua, 18 Ordinances were passed, of which the more important were: No. 9, by which the income tax of 3 per cent. levied on official salaries by Ordinance No. 6 of 1899 was reduced to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on those salaries not exceeding £100 per annum. No. 11, consolidating and amending the law relating to contagious diseases among animals. No. 16, to amend the law relating to the distillation and disposal of spirits.

In St. Kitts-Nevis, 11 Ordinances were passed, eight in Dominica, ten in Montserrat, and seven in the Virgin Islands, one of which, No. 5, "An Ordinance to regulate the grant of mining leases of Crown lands, and the grant of licenses to explore and prospect on Crown lands for minerals," was disallowed.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(a.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The number of children on the rolls of the primary schools for the year 1900 amounted to 24,974, as against 24,879 during the previous year, showing an increase of 95; the average attendance being 11,009, as against 12,046, being a decrease of 1,037.

The following table shows the number on roll, the average attendance, school fees, Government grant and voluntary contributions, for the last five years.

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Number on roll ...	25,120	25,139	25,022	25,121	24,879	24,974
Average attendance ...	12,402	12,894	12,438	11,745	12,046	11,009
School fees ...	£ s. d. 543 1 7	£ s. d. 465 0 11	£ s. d. 331 14 9	£ s. d. 228 3 10	£ s. d. 180 4 9	£ s. d. 121 4 11
Government grant ...	7,177 4 6	7,240 18 8	7,090 3 3	6,223 7 11	6,138 10 2	6,480 13 9
Voluntary contributions ...	683 12 5	934 10 11	532 19 6	563 6 1	568 16 7	369 3 6

(b.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

There are two secondary schools in Antigua, (1) the Antigua Grammar School which receives a grant of £200. There were 40 boys on the roll for 1900 with an average attendance of 37. (2) The Antigua Girl's High School which receives a grant of £100 per annum. There were 35 girls on the roll during the year and an average attendance of 33.

In Dominica the Roseau Grammar School is maintained by the Government.

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Antigua and Dominica are centres for the Cambridge Local Examinations.

Examinations are also held in Antigua for the various degrees in Arts and Law of the University of London.

(c.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, OR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

The Skerrett's (Boys) Training School is now limited as far as possible to 100 boys, but there were actually 105 inmates remaining at the school on the 31st December, 1900. Of these, 74 were natives of Antigua, 15 of St. Kitts, eight of Nevis, five of Anguilla, and three of Montserrat.

The other Presidencies pay Antigua at the rate of £10 per annum for each boy sent to the school.

In connection with the school is a Government stock farm, in which several of the best strains of horses, cattle, and pigs are kept. This has done much to improve the breed of animals throughout the island. The stock farm is badly supplied with water from ponds on the farm, but it is hoped that the evil will soon be remedied by connecting the farm with Wallings Reservoir. The total expenditure on the stock farm and estate was £417 15s. 1d., and the receipts £439 12s. 5d.

The estimated value of the stock on the farm is £1,583.

The superintendent of the school is also agricultural superintendent in charge of the cane experiments being carried on under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. An auction sale of new seedling canes was held in December last, when 120,000 cane plants of different varieties were sold to planters in the island.

The Bourbon cane, which was the old stock cane, has been superseded almost entirely by new varieties, which have been found to be less susceptible to the ravages of rind, fungus, and moth borer.

The rainfall on the estate was 46.68 inches.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

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(a.) HOSPITALS.

The following table shows in a summarized form the number of patients admitted in 1900 into the various hospitals throughout the Colony, the number discharged from these Institutions, and the number of deaths which took place:—

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1900.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	179	1,492	717	456	—	314
Cunningham, St. Kitts	119	865	438	182	73	117
Nevis	43	106	63	25	3	29
Dominica	39	534	417	47	5	46
Montserrat (Chateau)	78	54	36	15	7	13
(Hospital)	6	52	31	14	5	6

A new hospital is very much needed in Antigua. The site of the present hospital, which is immediately to windward of Government House and the City of St. John's, has many disadvantages, and the old and dilapidated buildings now occupied as wards are quite unsuited for the purposes of a hospital.

(b.) LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The following table gives the statistics of the lunatic asylums for the year:—

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1900.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat-Island	80	39	24	—	—	14
Ridge	36	5	—	—	1	4

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The Scotts Hill buildings in Antigua, lately occupied as a training school for girls, are being converted into a lunatic asylum, and the necessary arrangements for the more advanced treatment of lunacy are being carried out.

LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylums.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1900.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	40	6	—	1	—	5
St. Kitts	64	6	—	1	—	8

As soon as the necessary alterations are completed at Scotts Hill for the reception of the lunatics, the lepers will be transferred to the quarters now occupied as a lunatic asylum at Rat Island.

(c.) POOR HOUSE.

In Antigua there were 104 persons in the Poor House on the 1st January, 1900. During the year 64 were admitted and 53 discharged.

The number of persons who received out-door poor relief was 1,081, the total amount spent being £609.

(d.) REFORMATORIES.

(See under Education—Training Schools.)

(e.) SAVINGS BANKS.

There are savings' banks in all the Presidencies with the exception of the Virgin Islands. The total amount to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1900, was as follows :—

Antigua	£41,722
St. Kitts	8,893
Nevis	2,402
Dominica	6,787
Montserrat	3,374
	<hr/>
	£63,178

The amount deposited during the year was £23,586, as against withdrawals amounting to £23,768.

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The number of depositors on the 31st December, 1900, was 2,429; 3 per cent. is the rate of interest allowed.

The amount of funds invested on behalf of the savings' banks of the Colony is £63,380.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(a.) POLICE.

The armed Police Force of the Leeward Islands numbered, on the 31st December last, 209 officers and men, viz., 1 Inspector-General, 3 Inspectors, 3 Sergeant-Majors, 202 other Non-commissioned officers and men. Of these, 1 Inspector, 1 Sergeant-Major, and 67 other Non-commissioned officers and men were stationed in Antigua, including 1 Sergeant in Barbuda; 1 Inspector, 1 Sergeant-Major, and 60 other Non-commissioned officers and men in St. Kitts-Nevis; 1 Inspector and 34 Non-commissioned officers and men in Dominica; 1 Sergeant-Major and 40 other Non-commissioned officers and men in Montserrat; and 1 second class private in the Virgin Islands. In June, 1899, in consequence of serious disturbances and resistance offered to the Police in Montserrat, in connection with searches for, and seizure of, illicit rum-stills, the division in that Presidency had to be temporarily increased by 20 men, making a total strength of 41 Non-commissioned officers and men. These, however, are being gradually reduced.

(b.) PRISONS.

The total number of prisoners received during the year 1900 was 2,165, being 393 in excess of the previous year. Of these, 1,229 were males, 921 females, and 15 juveniles.

There were five deaths during the year, as follows:—two from kidney disease, one from enteritis, one from peritonitis (the above four died in the Holberton Hospital, to which they had been transferred), and one, a female, from rupture of an enlarged spleen, in the prison. The total number of prisoners received during the year at the Central Prison in Antigua was 892, of

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whom 553 were males and 339 females. The number of committals from Antigua in 1900 is exceptionally high, and exceeds that of any year during the last decade, as the following table will show:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1891	496	232	728
1892	363	209	563
1893	419	213	632
1894	325	253	578
1895	482	243	725
1896	324	264	588
1897	348	184	532
1898	363	217	580
1899	341	206	547
1900	522	335	857

The increase in the number of females committed in Antigua is specially noticeable, and may be due to the fact that the labour allotted to them in prison is of too easy a nature now that stone-breaking cannot be enforced as one of the tasks for females.

Thirty-one male prisoners were committed to prison during the year who had been formerly inmates of Skerret's school.

The prisoners are employed in cooking, baking bread for the public institutions, making and mending prison clothing and bedding, and washing, also quarrying, stone-breaking, stone-cutting, &c., &c.

The transfers from the other Presidencies were as follows:—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	15	4	19
Dominica	4	—	4
Montserrat... ..	11	1	12

The following shows the number of cases treated by the prison surgeon during the year:—

Skin diseases ...	10	Rheumatism and allied diseases ...	59
Gastro-intestinal diseases ...	120	Filarial disease ...	1
Pulmonary diseases ...	51	Fevers ...	51
Heart disease ...	4	Abscesses, ulcers, &c. ...	20
Debility ...	10	Headache, vertigo, &c. ...	15
Hérnia ...	7	Slight injuries ...	9
Eye diseases ...	6	Malingering ...	58
Genito-urinary diseases ...	14		

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Making a total of 435 cases treated for the year.

(c.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table shows the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year:—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted, died awaiting trial, or nolle prosequi entered.
1896 ...	15,128	5,962	8,959
1897 ...	13,261	5,837	7,258
1898 ...	12,813	5,613	7,105
1899 ...	13,358	6,808	6,449
1900 ...	13,160	7,855	5,763

Of the 13,160 offences reported during 1900, 3,244 were for offences against the person, 1,431 prædial larceny, 1,523 against property (other than prædial larceny), while the remaining 6,962 comprised all other offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 7,771 persons in the Magistrates' courts, the number of persons convicted by the Superior courts being 84.

In the Magistrates' courts 5,718 persons were acquitted, while the number acquitted in the Superior courts was 28, a *nolle prosequi* was entered in 16 cases, and one prisoner died while awaiting trial.

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VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(a.) POPULATION.

The aggregate returns from the Registrars of the various Presidencies show a total for the Colony of 4,706 births, 4,637 deaths, and 438 marriages.

The Census of 1891 gave a total population for the Colony of 127,723, and, adding on the number of births in excess of deaths between the date of the Census and the 31st December, 1899, we obtain as the present population of the Colony an apparent total of 141,645. In the absence of statistics of immigration and emigration, the latter of which has been considerable in Antigua, the above total is unreliable.

The following summary shows the population of each island of the Colony as on the 31st December, 1899 (subject to the differences caused by emigration) together with the births and deaths in each case:—

Island.	Population on 31st December 1899.	Births.	Deaths.	Net Increase in 1900.	Net Decrease in 1900.
Antigua } ...	37,541	1,248	1,266	—	18
Barbuda } ...	710	40	24	16	—
St. Kitts } ...	33,628	1,154	941	213	—
Nevis ... } ...	15,305	568	294	274	—
Anguilla } ...	4,431	158	55	103	—
Dominica ...	30,557	941	764	177	—
Montserrat ...	14,033	424	188	236	—
Virgin Islands ...	5,440	173	105	68	—
Total ...	141,645	4,706	3,637	1,087	18

(b.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The following table shows the death rate of the Colony per 1,000 during the past five years. It will be observed that the

death-rate in 1900 was 3·30 below that of the last year, and about equal to the average of the last five years :—

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Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1896 ...	136,034	3,404	25·02
1897 ...	138,069	3,215	23·28
1898 ...	139,512	3,601	25·88
1899 ...	140,576	4,074	28·98
1900 ...	141,645	3,637	25·68

Average death-rate per 1,000 during the last five years, 25·77.

(c.) SANITATION.

Sanitary Boards exist in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, by which provision is made for the enforcement of the usual sanitary regulations. In the town of St. John's, Antigua, the dry earth privy system, with frequent removal of excreta, has been introduced, and is gradually being extended. The villages are kept clear of weeds. In the Presidencies of St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat, there is an abundant supply of good water carried by pipes to the towns. In Antigua, while the town of St. John's has a fair water supply, the country villages are exceedingly badly supplied with water by ponds, which can only be cleared out in very dry weather. A scheme for the distribution of the water from Wallings reservoir to some of the worst-supplied of the country districts is now being carried out, the balance of the Public Works Loan of 1893 having been appropriated for this purpose, together with the sum of £7,600 received from the sale of the dredger "Pholas," which has been credited to the loan.

(d.) CLIMATE.

(1) *Rainfall.*

The average rainfall recorded at the 64 stations in Antigua during the year 1900 was 36·95 inches. The average rainfall for 27 years was 45·66, so that the rainfall for 1900 was 8·71 inches below the average.

In St. Kitts the rainfall recorded at the United States weather bureau in Basseterre was 38·00 inches.

In Dominica the average rainfall recorded at 13 stations on the leeward coast was 96·87 inches; the average for six stations

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on the windward coast being 98·56 inches. The greatest amount of rain recorded at any station on the leeward coast was 248·27 inches, and on the windward coast 138·20 inches.

In Montserrat the average rainfall recorded at seven stations was 42·68 inches; the highest at any station being 51·67 inches and the lowest 35·95 inches.

(2) *Temperature.*

In Antigua the highest shade temperature during the year recorded at the Government Laboratory, St. John's, was 91, in September and October, and the lowest 69, in January; the average readings being 82·2 at 9 a.m. and 84 at 3 p.m.

In St. Kitts the maximum temperature was 89, in October, and the minimum 67, in August, while the average readings were 80·4 at 8 a.m., and 78·3 at 8 p.m.

In Montserrat the highest temperature recorded was 93, in October, and the lowest 70, in February and June.

Direction and Force of Wind.

The prevailing direction of the wind in the Leeward Islands is east, with occasional variations to north-east and east-north-east. The average velocity during the year was 7·1 miles per hour in Antigua, 10·3 in St. Kitts, and 5·4 in Dominica.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE
SERVICES.

The following table shows the statistics of postal matter sent to and from the Colony during the last five years:—

Year.	Letters and Cards received and sent.	Books and Papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1896	469,098	153,800	5,936
1897	362,433	151,853	5,430
1898	375,963	155,664	6,061
1899	491,616	184,327	6,746
1900	452,137	168,820	7,079

Comparing the figures for 1900 with those for 1899, we find a decrease of 39,479 letters and cards received and sent, 15,507 books and papers received and sent, and an increase of 333 parcels received and sent.

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The total value of Money Orders issued in the Colony was £27,646, as compared with £29,891 in 1899, being a decrease of £2,245, while the value of orders cashed in the Colony amounted to £14,542, as against £15,519 in 1899, being a decrease of £977.

The subsidies paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company amount to £1,600 per annum, of which Antigua pays £600, St. Kitts-Nevis £600, and Dominica £400. There is no telegraphic communication with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands, but hopes are entertained of its being established in the case of the former island in the near future.

The Direct West India Cable Company's cable is also laid as far as Jamaica, via Halifax and Bermuda, the line passing entirely through British territory. By either route telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world. The charge to the United Kingdom is 4s. 7½d. per word, with a preferential rate for Government telegrams of 3s. 1½d. per word.

Telephone systems are in operation in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, there being in the former island 275 miles of wire and 142 instruments in use, and in the latter 204 miles of wire and 79 instruments in use.

The expenditure in Antigua on the telephone system in 1900 was £775, and the receipts £695. In St. Kitts the expenditure was £456, and the receipts £337.

In Dominica several of the public offices are connected by telephone, and it is hoped shortly to extend the system around the island.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

(a.) REGULAR FORCES.

(None.)

(b.) MILITIA.

(None.)

(c.) VOLUNTEER.

Volunteer defence forces have been established in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua the force was established on the occasion of Her late Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

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The St. John's Mounted Infantry and Infantry Companies, armed with Martini-Enfield rifles, numbered, on the 31st December, 1900, 83 officers and men.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a volunteer defence force has been established since 1896, and numbered, on the 31st December, 1900, 103 officers and men.

The force is divided into three Companies. A. Company for Basseterre, B. Company for country districts, St. Kitts, and C. Company for Nevis.

The expenditure in Antigua on the defence force in 1900 was £338, and in St. Kitts-Nevis £908.

The arms are on loan from the Imperial Government.

(d.) CONSTABULARY (or Semi-Military Colonial Force).

(See Police.)

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir George Melville, K.C.M.G., administered the Government of the Leeward Islands from the 17th August to the 27th November, during the absence on leave of Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., and Mr. Gordon, Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretariat, acted as Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Foster acted as Colonial Secretary from the 1st January to the 3rd May, during the absence on leave of Sir George Melville, K.C.M.G.

Mr. Whyham acted as Auditor-General from the 1st January to the 3rd May, from the 8th June to the 3rd July, and from the 14th November to the end of the year.

Mr. Whyham also acted as Administrator of Dominica from the 4th July to the 13th November, during Mr. Bell's absence on leave, when Mr. Auchinleck acted as Auditor-General and Mr. E. R. Jones as Treasurer.

Mr. Purcell acted as Attorney-General from the 31st August to the 10th November, during the absence on leave of Mr. Stoker.

During Mr. Evelyn's absence on leave, from the 22nd January to 21st April, Mr. R. K. Dyett performed the combined duties of Magistrate of Districts A. and B.

Mr. Dyett also acted as Magistrate of District A. from 1st January to the 2nd May, and from the 8th June to the end of the year.

Mr. A. E. Eldridge, Postmaster, Antigua, acted as Magistrate, District H. (Nevis), from 1st January to 8th February, during Mr. Roden's absence on leave. Mr. A. C. K. Tibbits acted as Postmaster. LEEWARD
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Mr. F. H. Watkins was appointed Commissioner and Treasurer, Montserrat, on the 1st January, 1900, and Mr. C. M. Martin succeeded Mr. Watkins as Inspector of Schools in May.

Dr. Norris, Medical Officer, District No. 2, Montserrat, was appointed Medical Superintendent of the Holberton Hospital, Antigua, in August, and was succeeded by Dr. W. McDonald.

Mr. O. Nugent was appointed as Acting Magistrate (Barbuda), District L., in August, 1900.

Mr. J. D. Wall was appointed, in May, 1900, as Federal Accountant and Chief Audit Clerk, in the place of Mr. D. S. Macgregor, who was appointed as Auditor of British Honduras.

Sir Henry T. Wrenfordsley, Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, proceeded on leave on the 28th September with a view to retiring.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year 1900 was somewhat barren of incident, and much depression was felt in the sugar producing islands of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis owing to the short crop and the severe drought experienced.

The erection of central factories as the sole hope of restoring the sugar industry of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat, has been so fully discussed that further advocacy of this most important subject would appear to be but repetition. The antiquated machinery and the obsolete methods now employed in the manufacture of sugar in these islands should years ago have been replaced by modern factories, but year after year no improvement takes place, the crops become shorter, and hundreds of acres of what were formerly valuable cane lands are now thrown out of cultivation. A very large proportion of the best artisans and labourers has left, and still continue to leave, Antigua in search of employment elsewhere as now there is no inducement for them to remain owing to the small wages which they receive. The export of sugar for the Colony in 1900 exhibited a decrease of 7,431 tons as compared with the previous year. In Antigua the crop was the smallest, except in the year

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1900. 1898 (when there was a very severe drought) and in St. Kitts-Nevis the smallest during the last decade.

Mr. W. M. Mackison, C.E., arrived in Antigua early in the year to carry to completion the scheme for the supply of water to the country districts in connection with the Wallings reservoir. The reservoir, with a capacity of 11,000,000 gallons approximately, has been finished, and the laying of the pipes throughout the island will be commenced next year, and it is hoped that this important work will be completed early in 1902.

The Presidency of St. Christopher-Nevis was able to avoid any retrograde movement during the year. The hurricane of August, 1899, had so seriously damaged the young canes that the crop of 1900 amounted to only 7,451 tons, against an average of 12,000. Nevertheless, the revenue was well maintained, and, owing to various economies in expenditure, the deficit was the smallest for many years. The ravages of the hurricane were repaired by grants from the Mansion House Fund, the Imperial Parliament, and private donors, and included the rebuilding of five large schools, loans to five estates in Nevis to repair their works, patching or rebuilding of between 2,000 and 3,000 labourers' huts, and the renovation of piers, jetties, and other public buildings.

A great deal of useful legislative work was done during the year, and included the consolidation of the laws relating to various subjects, such as Trade and Revenue, Land and House Tax, Liquor Licenses, &c. An Ordinance was also passed to confer municipal government on the town of Basseterre (numbered 1 of 1901), but difficulties have arisen in connection therewith, which, it is hoped, will shortly be removed, and an efficient Town Board formed. The issue of Bills of Health was also placed on a proper footing.

Additional revenue was raised to provide for a permanent supply of Ice, and a Grammar School, both of which have since been provided.

The year 1900 was one of steady progress and increased prosperity for Dominica. The value of the exports exceeded by £2,666 those of the preceding year, and reached the highest figure attained during the past twenty years. The imports were worth nearly £10,000 more than in 1899, and they exceeded those of any year recorded. It is particularly satisfactory to note that these results were not due to any fortuitous or abnormal inflation in the market prices of the staple products, but may justly be ascribed to a steady growth in the various industries and to the gradual development of the island's resources. The exports of cocoa, in particular, were double those of ten years ago, while the out-put of limes and their products has increased three-fold during the same period. Dominica has, for many

years, been the world's chief producer of lime juice, and the area under cultivation of limes is being largely extended. Sugar has fallen to the rank of a very minor product, while the manufacture of rum is now not even sufficient for local requirements. The export of fruit is assuming considerable proportions, and the cultivation of oranges, pineapples, and bananas is attracting the attention of small capitalists.

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.

The revenue for 1900 was the highest ever recorded in Dominica. Irrespective of the Imperial Grant for botanic services, it amounted to £28,113, being £2,751 in excess of the estimate. The expenditure having been restricted to a total considerably below the revenue, Dominica received no portion of the Imperial Grant in aid of deficits, and the accounts of the year closed with a surplus exceeding £5,000. During the past seven years the public debt of the Presidency has been reduced from £70,900 to £58,800.

A number of works of public utility were carried out in Dominica during 1900. The Roseau Hospital was provided with a proper drainage system, and its exterior was painted. The police barracks were re-roofed, and the men's quarters somewhat improved. The roof of Government House and out-buildings were partly re-shingled. The jetty at Portsmouth was re-constructed. A new school-house was erected at Dublanc. A section of sea wall was built at Point Michael. Four miles of road leading to Roseau were thoroughly re-constructed, and rendered fit for wheeled traffic. About four miles of road were also constructed in the interior, at the cost of the Imperial Grant for opening up the Crown lands.

During the year 1900 there was a marked influx of Englishmen possessed of moderate capital, many of whom either purchased estates already in cultivation or selected blocks of Crown Lands that are being rendered accessible by the new Imperial Road. Over 2,000 acres of the new lands in the interior were sold during the year, and there is reason to believe that a great future lies in the possibilities of the vast areas of virgin soil known as the Layou Flats.

In Montserrat the early part of the year saw the restoration of the estate works, churches, and public buildings destroyed by the hurricane of the 7th August, 1899; 22 estate works were rebuilt by loans advanced by the Imperial Government, and ten schools, two police stations, the gaol, the public market, and the poor house were restored by Imperial Grants.

The cultivation of the lime estates destroyed was also recommenced.

Up to the middle of the year the weather was fairly seasonable, but, after July, the island experienced the severest period

LEEWARD
ISLANDS,
1900.

of drought on record. For four days in October shocks of earthquakes were felt, the series culminating in one which damaged several houses and public buildings.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture established a station of six acres and two district plots at Harris Village and Olveston, from which many thousands of plants were distributed among the sufferers by the hurricane.

The want of steam communication with the Virgin Islands is much felt, and it is difficult to see how any well organized scheme for the development of these islands can be carried out in its absence.

EDWARD B. JARVIS,

For Colonial Secretary,

Leeward Islands.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Leeward Islands,

26th August, 1901.

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No. 374.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1901-1902.

(For Report for 1900-1901, *see* No. 337.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1902.



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No.	Colony.	Year.
349	British Guiana	1900-1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900-1901
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353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda... ..	1901
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356	Falkland Islands	"
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363	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
364	Seychelles	"
365	Bahamas	1901-1902
366	Fiji	1901
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2	Zululand... ..	Forests
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 374.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1900-1901, *see* No. 337.)

ACTING GOVERNOR SIR GEO. MELVILLE to
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Antigua,
29th September, 1902.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1901-02, together with the usual report thereon and with a covering letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

GEO. MELVILLE,
Acting Governor.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Antigua,
29th September, 1902.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony embracing the periods from 1st January to 31st March, 1901, and from 1st April, 1901 to 31st March, 1902, together with a Report thereon which has been prepared by Mr. Edward B. Jarvis, Chief Clerk of this Office, for transmission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,

E. ALEXANDER FOSTER,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency

Sir George Melville, K.C.M.G.,
Acting Governor-in-Chief,
Leeward Islands.

**REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF
THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR
1901-2.**

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial year, which has hitherto coincided with the calendar year, now runs from the 1st of April to the 31st of March. The financial returns are accordingly now made up for this period, but in all other returns the calendar year is retained.

(a.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Colony for the intermediate period January to March, 1901, amounted to £29,328 (exclusive of Imperial Grants in aid amounting to £4,351) showing a net increase of £1,223 over the amount of £28,105 realised during the corresponding period in the year 1900.

The expenditure amounted to £35,817 as against £33,522 during the corresponding period in 1900, representing an increase of £2,296.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1901-2 (exclusive of grants in aid from the Imperial Government amounting to £15,651) was £123,450, showing a net increase of £4,000 over that of the year 1900.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency during the last five years as also the increase or decrease in 1901-2 as compared with 1900.

Presidency.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901-2.	Increase 1901-2 over 1900.	Decrease 1901-2 under 1900.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	46,330	39,663	42,822	42,652	42,067	—	585
St. Kitts-Nevis	45,247	40,430	42,809	39,904	43,793	3,889	—
Dominica ...	23,610	24,570	26,155	28,113	29,598	1,485	—
Montserrat ...	7,906	6,199	6,790	6,664	6,196	—	468
Virgin Islands	1,675	1,715	2,984	2,117	1,796	—	321
Total ...	124,768	112,577	121,561	119,450	123,450	5,374	1,374

Net increase of revenue in 1901-2, as compared with 1900, £4,000.

Turning to the details of revenue under different heads, under the head of "Customs" St. Kitts-Nevis is the only Presidency which shows an increase. This amounts to £1,995, but Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands exhibit decreases of £1,418, £7, £598, and £90 respectively.

Under the head "Port and Harbour Dues" St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands show increases of £635, £39, and £5 respectively, while Antigua shows a decrease of £12, and Dominica of £62.

Under the head "Excise" increases appear in Antigua of £1,507, St. Kitts-Nevis of £66, and Dominica £956.

Under the head "Taxes" there are increases of £374 in St. Kitts-Nevis, £372 in Dominica, and £93 in Montserrat, and decreases of £448 in Antigua, and £27 in the Virgin Islands.

Under the head "Licenses" Dominica and the Virgin Islands exhibit increases of £280 and £45 respectively, while St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat exhibit decreases of £256 and £12 respectively; the revenue derived from this source in Antigua being the same as in the previous year.

Under the head "Rates" there is a total decrease of £266 for the Colony and a decrease of £176 under head "Miscellaneous."

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year 1901-2 is returned at £132,897 as against £131,973 for the year 1900, showing an increase of £924.

The following table shows the expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years as also the increase or decrease in 1901-2 as compared with 1900:—

Presidency.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901-2.	Increase 1901-2 over 1900.	Decrease 1901-2 under 1900.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	53,417	55,586	51,959	49,435	48,514	—	921
St. Kitts-Nevis	51,775	44,659	47,415	43,964	44,135	171	—
Dominica ...	24,062	24,648	25,083	26,780	28,012	1,232	—
Montserrat ...	9,895	11,936	16,608	9,597	10,312	715	—
Virgin Islands	1,777	1,783	2,220	2,197	1,924	—	273
Total ...	140,926	138,612	143,285	131,973	132,897	2,118	1,194

Net increase of expenditure in 1901-2, as compared with 1900, £924.

A comparison of the items of expenditure in the Presidencies taken collectively during the year 1901-2 with those of 1900, shows that increases or decreases occur under the following heads.

“Pensions.” The decrease of £679 is due to the deaths of pensioners paid from Presidential funds.

“Island Secretary” shows an increase of £252 due to the annual incremental allowances to the administrators of St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica.

“Federal Contribution.” The increase of £371 is accounted for by the increased Federal pensions and the transfer of the expenses of the laboratory in Antigua to “Federal Expenditure.”

The decrease of £118 under “Magistrates” is owing to the abolition of one of the district magistracies in Dominica.

A large decrease will be observed under “Police” amounting to £714. This is due to the reduction of the number of police stationed in Montserrat to 20 non-commissioned officers and men, and to various economies which have been effected in the department.

Under “Prisons” owing to the largely reduced number of prisoners a saving has taken place of £201. The number of persons committed to the central prison during the year was 459 as against 857 during 1900, and is the lowest number of committals during the last ten years.

Under “Medical” there is an apparent decrease of £222 owing to the salaries of several of the medical officers who were on leave not having been drawn within the financial year.

Under “Education” a decrease of £461 has taken place consequent on the reduction in the number of boys sent to the Skerrett’s Training School and the closing of the technical school in Antigua.

A large increase of £1,457 is observed under “Board of Health.” An additional grant of £770 was made to the Basseterre Town Improvement Commissioners and £350 was spent in St. Kitts-Nevis in repairing damage to roads caused by the heavy rains. The Antigua Waterworks were transferred to the St. John’s City Board and some expenditure incurred in cleaning ponds used for drinking purposes in the country districts.

The decrease under “Military” of £514 is due to the fact that the capitation grants to the members of the Defence Forces were not earned.

The decrease of £896 under “Public Works Department” is explained by the transfer to Head 16, “Board of Health,” of the expenditure of the Basseterre Water Works, and by a

similar transfer as regards the Antigua Water Works to the St. John's City Board.

Increased expenditure on roads in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis consequent on the heavy rains, and in Dominica on roads and bridges, and the fact that the transfer of the Water Works in Dominica to the Roseau Town Board was not effected during the year explain the increase of £734 under "Public Works Recurrent."

Briefly reviewed, expenditure in Antigua, including Barbuda, shows a decrease in 1901-1902 of £921, in St. Kitts-Nevis an increase of £171, in Dominica an increase of £1,232, in Montserrat an increase of £716, and in the Virgin Islands a decrease of £273 as compared with that of 1900.

(b.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

There were no changes in taxation during the year, except in the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis.

By the Liquor License Consolidation Ordinance No. 8 of 1901, licenses in Charlestown, Nevis, were increased from £12 to £13 15s. per quarter, and licenses in Anguilla were decreased from £2 10s. to £1 per quarter. A new license to the proprietor of an hotel to sell all liquor, except rum, by retail to be consumed on the premises at £10 per annum was imposed. An additional House Tax at the rate of 6-10ths of 1 per cent. per annum on the capital value of all properties in the Town of Basseterre was imposed in October, 1901, for the payment of interest and sinking fund on the balance of the Basseterre Improvement Loan. The annual revenue from this tax is estimated at £400.

(c.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.
 LEEWARD ISLANDS (GENERAL GOVERNMENT).
 Statement of Liabilities and Assets on 31st March, 1902.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Barbados Money Order Account ...	133	12 0	Bermuda Money Order Account...	914	13 9
Jamaica " " ...	32	8 0	British Guiana " " ...	21	5 9
St Kitts-Nevis (Current Account) ...	901	3 3	United States " " ...	196	17 8
Dominica " " ...	167	5 5	Windward Islands " " ...	6	11
Montserrat " " ...	274	9 2			
P. O. Guarantee Fund ...	16	9 0	Antigua (Current Account) ...	89	17 11
Land Assurance " " ...	1,919	5 3	Virgin Islands " " ...	257	12 0
Drafts and Remittances ...			Police Reward Fund ...		347 9 11
General Account ...			Land Assurance Investment Account.		21 12 7
			Imperial Government ...		1,800 0 0
			Cash (Treasurer) ...		
			" (Crown Agents) ...		326 15 9
					236 18 10
					3,866 1 2

PRESIDENCY OF ANTIGUA.
Statement of Liabilities and Assets on 31st March, 1902.

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
Deposits on account Money Orders ...	£ 322 6 2	Advances on Account of Money Orders ...	£ 118 5 10
" " to Cover Duties ...	5 14 2	" Botanic Department... ..	284 0 8
" " Barbuda ...	36 2 1	" Extradition C. Roberts ...	64 19 4
" " New Issue of Stamps ...	100 0 0	" Government of Italy ...	31 5 3
" " Revenue Defence Fund ...	18 19 6	" Collection Land Taxes ...	10 19 0
" " City Fund ...	82 2 1	" War Department ...	122 19 4
" " Prison Officers Fine Fund ...	34 16 2	Balances due by General Government, Leeward Islands.	
" " Official Receiver account, Globe Premises.	525 0 0	" " Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis ...	4 0
" " Package Tax ...	39 5 10	" " " Dominica ...	18 3
Balances due to General Government, Leeward Islands.	93 7 11	" " " Virgin Islands ...	98 4 2
" " Presidency of Montserrat ...	15 17 4	London and Westminster Bank Deposits Public Works Loan Account.	2,896 3 11
" " Unrepresented Estates ...	54 11 8	Excess of Liabilities ...	1,757 0 3½
" " Escheated ...	146 11 6		
" " Bankruptcy ...	73 9 9		
" " Registrar's unclaimed Balances ...	13 10 7		
" " Drafts and Remittances ...	45 10 0		
" " Treasurer ...	1,486 2 7½		
" " Loan Works Balance of Appropriation.	2,291 12 8		
Total ...	5,385 0 0½	Total ...	5,385 0 0½

PRESIDENCY OF ST. CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS.
Statement of Liabilities and Assets on 31st March, 1902.

Liabilities.	£ s. d.	Assets.	£ s. d.
Deposits—F. S. Wigley ...	2 2 0	Cash Account—	
Estate of De Geneste ...	187 12 5	Treasurer's ...	747 2 0
Postmaster ...	824 1 1	Advances—Personal ...	45 9 3
Deposit to secure Duties ...	18 16 4	Government, British Guiana ...	901 3 3
Revenue Defence Fund ...	88 6 4	General Government, Leeward Islands ...	1 3 2
Provost Marshal's Deposit Account ...	9 1 7	Presidencies ...	
Unrepresented Estates ...	2 5 11	Money Order Accounts—	
Botanic Department ...	41 18 10	Windward Islands ...	19 19 3
Planters' Loan Fund ...	560 0 0	Trinidad ...	22 13 0
Family Remittances ...		British Guiana ...	15 8 4
Money Order Accounts—		Remittances in Transit ...	
United Kingdom ...	264 6 0		
Leeward Islands ...	81 7 0		
Canada ...	5 1 8		
United States ...	58 19 4		
Jamaica ...	14 0		
Bermuda ...	587 11 9		
Balances due to—			
Public Works Loan of 1891 ...	1,478 1 8		
" " 1898 ...	608 0 0		
General Post Office, London ...			
Presidencies ...	2,086 1 8		
Sinking Funds, Improvement Baseeterre ...	18 11		
	7 17 8		
	826 17 6		
Total Liabilities ...	4,620 0 10	Total ...	
Excess of Assets ...	529 17 5		
Total ...	5,149 18 3		5,149 18 3

PRESIDENCY OF DOMINICA.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets on 31st March, 1902.

Liabilities.	—	£ s. d.	—	Assets.	£ s. d.	—
Deposits to be repaid to—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Cash—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sundry Money Order accounts...	225 18 9			In Colonial Bank on Current Account.	993 6 7	
Registrar and Marshal's deposit account.	16 2 11½			In Treasury Chest	403 15 1½	
Deposits to secure duties	9 18 3			In hands of Sub-Accountant ...	374 13 1	1,771 14 9½
Prison Officers' Fine Fund	15 13 4					3,000 0 0
Plaintiffs' costs deposit account ...	1 8 6			Investments by Crown Agents ...	— —	654 5 6
Revenue Defence Fund... ..	167 2 8			Remittances in transit	— —	
Receiver of Wreck	7 4 6			Advances—		
Postmaster	161 9 0			Sundry Money Order accounts ...	16 6 11	63 0 3
Superintendent Crown Lands Fees.	2 10 0		607 7 11½	Other authorised advances ...	46 13 4	
Balance due to—				Balances due by—		
Other Presidencies—				His Majesty's Government ...	366 14 3	
Antigua	18 3			General Government, Leeward Islands.	166 13 4½	533 7 7½
St. Kitts-Nevis	1 3 2					
Montserrat	7 1 3					
General Post Office, London ...	6 9 7		15 12 3			
Excess of Assets...	—		623 0 2½ 5,399 7 11½	Total		6,022 8 2
Total			6,022 8 2			

PRESIDENCY OF MONTSEERAT.
Statement of Liabilities and Assets on 31st March, 1902.

Liabilities.		—		Assets.	—	
		£	d.		£	d.
Cash	...	2,096	16 7	Dominica	...	7 1 3
Unrepresented Estates Reserve Fund Account	...	3	17 9	General Government	...	274 9 2
Registrar's Deposit Account	...	12	10 5	Imperial Hurricane Relief Grant Advance Account	...	291 5 8
Provost Marahal's Deposit Account	...	3	3 11	United Kingdom Post Office Account	...	4 8 1
Escheated Estates Account	...	9	13 6	Antigua	...	15 17 4
Savings' Bank	...	5	1 3	St. Kitts-Nevis	...	6 10 10
Sundry Money Order Accounts	...	312	5 5	Drafts and Remittances	...	1,011 13 9
				Botanical Department Advance Account	...	279 7 0
				Colony of British Guiana	...	3 13 4
				Sundry Money Order Accounts	...	65 0 4
				Excess of Liabilities	...	484 2 1
Total	..	2,443	8 10	Total	...	2,443 8 10

PRESIDENCY OF VIRGIN ISLANDS.
Statement of Liabilities and Assets on 31st March, 1902.

Liabilities.	—	Assets.	—
Sundry Advances—	£ s. d.	Sundry Advances—	£ s. d.
General Government	257 12 0	Agricultural Department... ..	219 18 11
Antigua	98 4 2	Agricultural Instructor	12 10 0
General Post Office, London	29 11 7	St. Kitts-Nevis	1 2 5
Sundry Deposits—		Colonial Bank Antigua Deposit	300 0 0
Unrepresented Estates Account	8 0 9	Crown Agents Current Account... ..	8 17 7
Provost Marshal's Deposits	1 4 11	Treasurer	81 11 2
Postmaster Deposit	3 14 0	Windward Islands Money Order Account	1 8 0
Agricultural Department Produce Account	10 4 11		
United States Money Order Accounts	14 15 0		
	423 7 4		
Excess of Assets	202 0 9		
Total	625 8 1	Total... ..	625 8 1

(d.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, which, on the 31st December 1900, stood at £293,321 was at the close of 1901 reduced to £286,321, £100 having been paid on account of the Antigua Savings' Bank Loan of 1881, £1,700 on account of the Basseterre Improvement Loan, 1891, £200 on account of the Montserrat Water Works Loan of 1879, and £5,000 on account of the Dominica Water Works Loan of 1875 and 1877.

There is no public debt in the Virgin Islands.

The following table shows the individual liabilities of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat, with a column showing the amounts to the credit of the various Sinking Fund Accounts on the 31st December, 1901.

Presidency.	Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Fund.
Antigua	£ 136,971	£ 24,051
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	72,250	7,058
Dominica	65,900	8,461
Montserrat	11,200	1,050
Total	286,321	40,620

(e.) CURRENCY.

There is nothing to be remarked under this head. The Bank rates of Exchange remain unaltered.

(f.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The Revenue of the St. John's City Board, established under Antigua Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, amounted to £2,915 during the year 1901, as against £2,745 for the previous year, and the Expenditure was £3,127 as against £2,741.

The St. John's City Board, subject to the provisions of Ordinance No. 15 of 1900, took over the control of the Water Works and Fire Brigade on the 1st July, 1901. The Interest and Sinking Fund on the Water Works Loan amount to £848 per annum, £700 of which is paid from General Revenue and the balance from the City Fund. The Board receives an annual Grant in aid from General Revenue of £1,400.

The Board has not been able to carry out extensive sanitary work through want of funds, but a marked improvement has been

made in several of the departments under its control. Much however, remains to be done to improve the sanitary condition of the City of St. John.

(g.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The Roseau Town Board of Dominica was established under Act No. 3 of 1896, and its revenue and expenditure have been as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1896	754	714
1897	929	925
1898	978	964
1899	920	890
1900	1,084	1,033
1901	1,097	1,029

An Ordinance to provide for the Government of the town of Basseterre (St. Kitts) came into force in January 1901, but as no candidates came forward for election as members, a Town Board was not formed, and the affairs of the Town are still administered by the Town Improvement Commissioners under the Ordinance of 1891.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(a.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total value of the Imports of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1901, exclusive of internal trade between the presidencies, amounted to £358,230, as against £346,395 in 1900, being an increase of £11,835.

The following table shows the total value of imports for each of the past five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1901 as compared with the previous year.

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Country whence imported.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	Increase 1900.	Decrease 1901 under 1900.
United Kingdom	£ 133,497	£ 134,071	£ 148,393	£ 141,131	£ 160,827	£ 19,696	£ —
British Colonies	41,694	41,308	45,259	55,310	51,441	—	4,369
United States of America...	124,064	113,864	137,224	140,022	137,496	—	2,526
Other Foreign Countries ..	13,402	10,733	9,236	9,432	8,466	—	966
Total	312,657	299,976	340,112	346,395	358,230	19,696	7,861

Net increase in value of Imports in 1901, as compared with 1900, £11,835.

The return of internal trade between the presidencies shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £17,594 as against £25,786 during the previous year, showing a decrease of £8,192. The figures for the quinquennial period 1897 to 1901 are as follows :—

1897, £13,096 ; 1898, £12,119 ; 1899, £25,255 ; 1900, £25,786 ; 1901, £17,594.

The following summary of imports gives the aggregate value of the various articles or goods imported during each of the last five years, showing also the increase or decrease in 1901 as compared with the previous year :—

SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

Articles.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	Increase 1901 over 1900.	Decrease 1901 under 1900.
Live Animals	£ 997	£ 2,425	£ 1,954	£ 1,210	£ 2,108	£ 898	£ —
Foodstuffs	132,320	132,728	141,192	140,507	135,623	—	4,884
Drinks	11,443	9,375	9,629	10,192	9,346	—	846
Narcotics	3,722	3,142	3,377	3,181	3,659	478	—
Raw Materials	9,947	8,310	16,029	15,717	17,359	1,642	—
Manufactured Articles, Textile	67,888	62,872	74,876	64,677	86,534	21,857	—
Do.	16,912	13,081	16,994	24,430	21,546	—	2,884
Other Manufactures	69,540	63,448	74,712	77,319	79,953	2,634	—
Coin and Bullion	312,551	295,381	338,763	337,233	356,128	27,509	8,614
	106	4,595	1,349	9,162	2,102	—	7,060
Total	312,657	299,976	340,112	346,395	358,230	27,509	15,674

Total increase of £11,835 in 1901.

EXPORTS.

The total value of exports during the year 1901, exclusive of internal trade between the presidencies, was £ 307,344, as against £279,020 in 1900, being an increase of £28,324,

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years distinguishing the countries to which the various articles were exported, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1901, as compared with 1900.

Total Exports.

Countries to which exported.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	Increase 1901 over 1900.	Decrease 1901 under 1900.
United Kingdom	£ 49,582	£ 62,563	£ 60,207	£ 61,673	£ 60,374	£ —	£ 1,299
British Colonies	58,925	28,075	41,722	45,547	48,071	2,524	—
United States of America... ..	223,150	178,348	234,254	154,121	183,696	29,575	—
Other Foreign Countries	16,839	17,417	15,246	17,679	15,203	—	2,476
Total	328,496	286,403	351,429	279,020	307,344	32,099	3,775

The above table shows a net increase of £28,324 in the total value of exports during the year 1901, as compared with the previous year.

The increase of £29,575 in exports to the United States of America is accounted for by the increase in the output of sugar which was 6,606 tons more than in the previous year.

The following tabular statement shows the value of the principal exports during the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1901 as compared with 1900 :—

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Articles of Export.	1897.		1898.		1899.		1900.		1901.		Increase 1901 over 1900.		Decrease 1901 under 1900.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sugar ... Tons	28,555	£ 236,209	20,065	£ 174,098	22,815	£ 230,029	15,334	£ 157,737	21,990	£ 198,769	6,508	£ 41,082	—	£ —
Molasses ... Puns.	7,483	12,506	4,204	8,596	7,292	20,162	6,142	22,863	7,055	15,808	913	—	—	7,045
Rum ... Galls.	62,586	2,265	48,451	1,579	28,721	1,554	15,252	1,003	53,248	2,317	37,896	1,314	—	—
Coffee ... lbs.	20,533	722	21,958	537	16,087	877	5,957	207	6,306	170	—	—	651	87
Cocoa ... lbs.	593,680	9,007	1,112,862	25,362	863,441	20,373	1,036,173	24,285	976,952	22,898	—	—	59,231	1,337
Lime and Lime Juice.	—	24,514	—	25,753	—	32,780	—	83,277	—	83,517	—	1,240	—	—
Total ...	—	286,223	—	236,924	—	305,264	—	238,362	—	273,479	—	43,586	—	8,469

From the preceding table it will be noticed that there was an increase in the export of sugar amounting to 6,606 tons valued at £41,032. From the Presidency of Dominica only 152 tons of sugar were exported, showing clearly that the sugar industry in that Island has been almost entirely superseded by the cultivation of cocoa and limes.

There was an increase of 913 puncheons of molasses but a decrease of £7,045 in value. The price of this article fluctuates considerably, for, as pointed out in last year's Report, there was in 1900 a decrease of 1,150 puncheons of molasses with an increase of value amounting to £2,701.

The export of rum from St. Kitts-Nevis showed an increase over 1900 of £37,895 gallons in quantity and £1,314 in value.

There was a decrease of 1,923 lbs. in the output of coffee in Dominica as also a decrease of 59,221 lbs. in cocoa. Dominica exported lime juice to the value of £32,313 as against £31,603 in 1900, while Montserrat's export of this article amounted to £1,110 as against £368 in 1900, showing that the lime culture in that Presidency has already commenced to exhibit rapid signs of recovery from the disastrous effects of the hurricane of 1899.

The following table shows the export of sugar from each Presidency during the decennial period 1892-1901 :—

EXPORT OF SUGAR FROM EACH PRESIDENCY.

Presidency.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Antigua	Tons. 15,302	Tons. 14,566	Tons. 12,342	Tons. 7,219	Tons. 15,100	Tons. 12,744	Tons. 6,928	Tons. 10,041	Tons. 7,603	Tons. 9,091
St. Kitts-Nevis
Dominica
Montserrat
Virgin Islands
Total

The average export of sugar for the last ten years from the Colony of the Leeward Islands is 27,346 tons, so that the quantity exported in 1901 was 5,356 tons below the average for that period.

(b) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine at Soufriere, and there are mines containing molybdenum and copper at Virgin Gorda, one of the islands of the Virgin Islands group, which it is hoped will shortly be worked again. Phosphates are found on the island of Redonda.

Sugar is the staple product of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

A considerable quantity of rum is manufactured in St. Kitts.

Dominica has for many years been the world's chief producer of lime juice and its bye products. The lime juice industry of Montserrat, which was almost entirely destroyed by the hurricane of 1899, is being rapidly re-established. Bay oil is manufactured in both Dominica and Montserrat.

There are no organized fisheries.

An effort to secure the co-operation of the Dutch, Danish, and French Governments with a view to the establishment of a uniform close season for the turtle fishery in the West Indies has hitherto proved unsuccessful.

(c.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.

The estimated acreage of cultivated land in Antigua is 16,481 acres out of 52,794 acres, in St. Kitts-Nevis (exclusive of Anguilla) 18,268 out of 75,520 acres. In Dominica there are about 177,549 acres of uncultivated land, of which about 80,000 are Crown lands suitable for cultivation.

Sugar constitutes the chief agricultural industry of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat; the production of lime juice, essential oil of limes, and cocoa are the main industries of Dominica, while considerable quantities of lime juice are exported from Montserrat.

In Antigua there are established ten, and in St. Kitts nine local sugar experiment stations, where experiments are being carried on in order to select and introduce into local cultivation the most productive varieties of sugar cane, and also by experiment to ascertain the manurial requirements of the sugar cane under the special conditions prevailing in various localities. The work at these stations is carried on jointly by officers working in connection with the Imperial Department of Agriculture and by the planters. Reports of the work done are published annually and have had an important bearing on the work of the sugar plantations.

In Antigua there has been established in connection with the botanic station a small station for the experimental cultivation of various economic plants other than sugar cane; here experiments have been conducted with yams, sweet potatoes, eddoes, guinea corn, corn (maize), beans, cotton and a variety of other products of interest. Reports are issued annually.

Similar work has also been done in connection with the experiment station in Montserrat.

Botanic stations, or their equivalents, are established in every Presidency, and herein are conducted experiments with, and experimental cultivations of, various plants adapted to local conditions, either with the object of improving the cultivation of established kinds, or of introducing improved varieties, or of introducing entirely new plants with the hope of establishing new industries. These stations serve as centres from which economic

plants are distributed to local cultivators who readily avail themselves of the facilities thus offered.

The botanic station in Dominica has been particularly successful in its work in connection with cacao and limes. The Antigua and St. Kitts stations have given much attention to sugar cane, while directing attention to other local industries of growing importance. That of Montserrat has been largely directed to food crops and the subject of minor industries.

The pineapple industry of Antigua has been making steady progress of recent years; efforts are being made by the Agricultural Department to introduce new and improved kinds, with some degree of success. As the result of these experiments it is expected that new avenues of trade will be opened up. The diseases affecting pineapples have been studied and reported upon by the entomologist and by the mycologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Tobacco is cultivated on a small scale in Antigua and in St. Kitts. A small local industry appears now to be established in the former Island where the soil is suitable for raising the somewhat heavy tobacco required for local consumption. There is good ground to hope that a cigar-tobacco industry may be established in St. Kitts in course of time; the soil of that Island appears to be eminently suitable for the cultivation of cigar-tobacco.

Cacao is being planted on a small, but systematic scale in Nevis, where there exist a few well-sheltered fertile valleys, which promise to make good cacao estates; it is too early to speak yet with certainty of the success of this venture, but the prospects so far are favourable.

A fairly successful onion industry is now established in Antigua, and a small export trade is growing. Attempts are being made to introduce a similar industry into Montserrat and Dominica.

In several of the Presidencies there have been enquiries as to the possibility of establishing a cotton industry to replace sugar in the poorer districts. Experiments are in progress by the Department of Agriculture and by private persons with the view of ascertaining whether cotton will prove remunerative, and what varieties will be most profitable; and on some estates in St. Kitts important steps have been taken with a view to the substitution of cotton for sugar. A small cotton gin for experimental purposes has been procured for Antigua, and it is in contemplation to procure gins for some of the other Presidencies.

With the aid of the Department efforts are being made to introduce the teaching of the principles of agriculture into the elementary schools. Courses of lectures on the principles of agriculture are being given to teachers by the Federal Analytical Chemist, assisted by the curators of the botanic stations. A textbook for the use of teachers in elementary schools ('Nature Teaching based on the principles of Agriculture' by Francis

Watts) has been prepared and widely circulated. Teaching on these lines has been begun in various schools in the Colony, and is expected soon to become general.

Instruction in the principles of agriculture is now given in the grammar school in St. Kitts at the instance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which provides the services of a science master and awards scholarships. Arrangements are completed for affording similar facilities in Antigua.

An Agricultural school has been established by the Imperial Department of Agriculture in Dominica, where 20 resident boys receive the rudiments of elementary education, and are trained in the manual work appertaining to the agricultural industries applicable to Dominica. This school is working well, and appears to supply a decided want in the economy of the Presidency.

Valuable animals for the improvement of the breeds of horses, cattle, asses, mules, sheep, goats and pigs, have been imported into the various Presidencies by the Department of Agriculture, whereby much needed and highly appreciated improvements are being effected.

Considerable progress has been made in the work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture which is exerting an appreciable influence on the agricultural methods of the Colony, and inducing various agricultural developments.

The West India Bulletin or journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, published monthly, and the "Agricultural News," published fortnightly, afford much information concerning the work of the Department in the Leeward Islands and elsewhere; while the numerous reports and pamphlets issued are read with interest by those who are engaged in the industries touched upon. The establishment in each Presidency of a centre where information can be obtained on agricultural and kindred subjects, is productive of much good and tends to foster improvements.

(d.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LANDS.

No land grants have been made in recent years, and the general value of land varies so greatly in the different Presidencies, and according to its suitability for sugar or other cultivation, that it is almost impossible to obtain reliable statistics as to value. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land may be taken at the present moment to range between £4 and £8 per acre. Crown lands can be purchased in Dominica at a cost of 10s. per acre, and survey fees of about 3s. per acre.

(e.) SHIPPING.

The following table shows the total tonnage of both steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1901, distinguishing between British and foreign vessels.

SUMMARY SHOWING TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED.

	British.						Foreign.						Sailing.	Total.
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.				
	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.		
Antigua ...	228,396	228,395	456,790	7,586	7,552	15,137	8,092	8,092	16,184	2,592	1,786	4,378	19,515	492,488
St. Kitts ...	205,576	205,576	411,152	6,880	6,284	13,064	19,155	19,155	38,310	5,394	5,687	11,081	24,145	473,607
Nevis ...	34,296	34,296	68,592	877	1,398	2,270	—	—	88,810	126	182	268	2,538	71,120
Anguilla ...	—	—	—	1,611	1,685	3,246	—	—	—	121	121	242	8,488	8,488
Dominica ...	225,639	225,490	451,129	3,414	8,466	6,870	8,872	8,872	16,744	1,623	1,610	3,233	10,103	477,976
Montserrat ...	119,623	119,623	239,246	5,667	5,643	11,809	6,699	6,699	13,398	665	684	1,349	12,658	265,302
Virgin Islands ...	—	—	—	5,288	5,502	10,740	—	—	—	604	543	1,146	11,886	11,886
Total ...	818,529	818,880	1,626,909	31,222	31,414	62,686	42,818	42,818	84,686	11,125	10,562	21,687	84,828	1,795,268

Comparing the above figures with those for 1900 there is an increase of 146,635 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 4,064 tons in sailing vessels during the year.

Taking the individual figures for each Presidency and comparing them with those for 1900 there is in Antigua an increase of 41,342 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 445 in sailing vessels.

In St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla) there is an increase of 26,112 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 1,110 tons in sailing vessels.

In Dominica an increase appears of 11,887 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 1,597 tons in sailing vessels.

In Montserrat there is an increase of 67,294 tons in steam vessels and a decrease of 722 tons in sailing vessels.

In the Virgin Islands there is a decrease of 190 tons in sailing vessels.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1901 as compared with 1900 :—

TOTAL TONNAGE OF VESSELS ENTERED AND CLEARED IN EACH PRESIDENCY.

Presidency.		1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	Increase 1901 over 1900.	Decrease 1901 under 1900.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	...	445,948	429,168	444,159	451,592	492,489	40,897	—
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	491,629	501,878	520,269	523,213	548,215	25,002	—
Dominica	...	407,460	456,998	464,986	467,686	477,976	10,290	—
Montserrat	...	228,715	208,430	186,429	198,730	265,302	66,572	—
Virgin Islands	...	11,545	11,307	11,374	12,076	11,886	—	190
Total of Colony		1,585,297	1,607,781	1,627,217	1,653,297	1,795,868	142,761	190

Net increase in 1901 over 1900, 142,571 tons.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands was in session from the 14th to the 18th March, inclusive, during which time 14 Acts were passed, the most important of which were :—

Act No. 1 of 1901 entitled “An Act to amend the Title by Registration Acts” whereby the Land Tax is made a first charge on all lands held under or to be brought under the Title by Registration Acts.

Act No. 2 of 1901 shortly entitled “The Criminal Evidence Act, 1901.” This Act assimilates the law as regards evidence in criminal cases to that now in force in England, namely, the Criminal Evidence Act of 1898, and enables every person charged with an offence, and the wife or husband of the person charged, to be a competent witness for the defence.

Act No. 14 of 1901, shortly entitled “The Statute Law Revision Act, 1901.” This Act contains lengthy schedules showing (A) Acts repealed by the present Act, (B) Acts heretofore specifically and wholly repealed, or disallowed, or not assented to, and (C) Acts in force as on the 31st December 1900.

One Act was disallowed, and “An Act to incorporate the Synod of the Diocese of Antigua and to provide for the administration of the property of the Church of England in the Colony” was declared to be ultra vires.

In Antigua, 10 Ordinances were passed. No. 2 of 1901, provides for the management, regulation and control of Barbuda and the imposition and collection of taxes in that Island.

No. 5 of 1901, makes it an offence punishable by fine not exceeding £50 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months to set fire to any crop, tree, wood, grass, &c., without having first obtained a license for the purpose. This Ordinance became necessary on account of the frequent and reckless setting of fire to bush and grass by the inhabitants, causing considerable damage by way of denuding and deforesting the higher lands of the Island.

Ordinance No. 8 of 1901 consolidates and amends the several Acts and Ordinances in force relating to the collection of Customs duties.

Ordinance No. 6 of 1901 entitled “An Ordinance to provide for the Preservation of the Public Health in the Country Districts,” was disallowed. A new Bill will shortly be introduced.

The Legislative Council of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis passed 16 Ordinances during the year, one of which (No. 2 of 1901) regulating the granting of mining leases of Crown lands

and the grant of licenses to explore and prospect on Crown lands for minerals, was disallowed.

Ordinance No. 1 of 1901 provides for the government of the town of Basseterre. Ordinances consolidating the numerous enactments relating to liquor licenses and land and house tax were passed, and the Anguilla Road Ordinance No. 3 of 1898 was repealed.

In Dominica only three Ordinances were passed, none of which call for any remark.

The Legislature of Montserrat passed nine Ordinances. By Ordinance No. 7 the amount of money which may be deposited in the Savings' Bank by any one depositor is limited to £100, and the rate of interest from and after the 1st April, 1902, is fixed at 2½ per cent.

The Virgin Islands passed six Ordinances, making a total of 58 Acts and Ordinances passed in the colony during the year under report.

The publication of a new and revised edition of the laws of the colony and of each Presidency, which is much needed, will, it is hoped, soon be undertaken.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(a.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The number of children on the rolls of the primary schools for the year 1901 was 23,273, as against 24,974 during the previous year, showing a decrease of 1,701, the average attendance being 11,257, as against 11,009, being an increase of 248.

The following table shows the number on the roll, the average attendance, school fees, Government grant and voluntary contributions, for the last five years :—

—	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Number on roll ...	25,022	25,121	24,879	24,974	23,273
Average attendance	12,488	11,745	12,046	11,009	11,257
School fees...	£ s. d. 381 14 9	£ s. d. 228 8 10	£ s. d. 180 4 9	£ s. d. 129 4 11	£ s. d. 97 13 11
Government grant	7,090 8 8	6,223 7 11	6,188 10 2	6,180 18 9	6,254 11 4
Voluntary contributions.	582 19 6	568 6 1	568 16 7	869 8 6	685 15 5

(b.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

There are three secondary schools in Antigua, (1) the Antigua Grammar School which receives a grant of £200 per annum, (2) the Antigua Girls' High School which receives a grant of

£100 per annum, and (3) the Spring Gardens' Female Training College which receives a grant of £200. In Dominica the Roseau Grammar School is maintained by the Government, at a cost last year of £362. Antigua and Dominica are centres for the Cambridge Local Examinations. Examinations are also held in Antigua for the various degrees in arts and law of the University of London.

(c.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, OR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

The Skerretts (Boys) Training School is limited as far as possible to 100 boys. On the 31st March, 1902, there were 71 inmates belonging to Antigua, 12 to St. Kitts, six to Nevis, four to Anguilla, and one to Montserrat, making a total of 94 boys. The number of admissions for the last fifteen months was 12, as against 22 discharged and on license. One boy died from dysentery.

All the boys admitted were from Antigua. The health of the boys was satisfactory.

Malarial fever has, as usual, been the prevailing complaint. There were 201 cases among the boys during the year 1901. Attention is, however, being given to the filling up and disinfecting of the stagnant puddles of water in the neighbourhood of the school, which form the breeding grounds of the anopheles mosquito, and this will doubtless tend to improve considerably the health of the inmates.

The health of the animals on the farm attached to the school has been on the whole satisfactory. The want of a pure and sufficient water supply is a very great drawback, and the hope expressed in last year's report as to remedying the defect by connecting the school with the Wallings reservoir has not yet been realized.

The death of one of the thoroughbred stallions, "George Michaelovitch," occurred in the early part of the year.

The stock farm was supplied with a thoroughbred stud Jack and Jenny through the instrumentality of the Imperial Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture. Annual auction sales of young stock are held. The estimated value of the stock on the farm is £1,320. The total expenditure on the stock farm for the fifteen months ending 31st March, 1902 was £499 4s., and the receipts £547 12s.

The best varieties of sugar cane are grown on the estate, and at an auction sale of cane plants held at the end of 1901, 100,000 cane plants were sold. The rainfall during the year was 71·88 inches.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(a.) HOSPITALS.

The following table shows in a summarized form the number of patients admitted during the year, the number discharged from these institutions, and the number of deaths which took place.

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1901.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	184	1,452	793	377	—	290
Cunningham, St. Kitts	117	995	590	243	116	116
Nevis	29	90	45	31	17	17
Dominica	58	549	458	33	47	47
Montserrat (Chateau)	61	39	21	7	10	10
" (Hospital)	5	52	24	15	6	6

Antigua is of all the Presidencies the worst supplied with hospital accommodation. Through the generous assistance afforded by the Imperial authorities a new hospital is shortly to be erected.

(b.) LUNATIC AND LEPER ASYLUMS.

The following tables give the statistics for the lunatic and leper asylums.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1901.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat Island	76	35	18	2	4	13
Ridge	36	2	1	—	—	1

The conversion of Scott's Hill Buildings in Antigua into a lunatic asylum, which was commenced last year, had to be postponed owing to the buildings being required by the military authorities in connection with the establishment of a military camp for the detention of Boer prisoners of war who were to have been sent to Antigua.

LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylums.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1901.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua	40	4	—	—	—	7
St. Kitts	65	6	—	1	—	7

The total number of the cases treated in these asylums for the last ten years is as follows :—

Year.				Antigua.	St. Kitts.
1892	...	...	...	33	80
1893	...	...	...	40	73
1894	...	...	...	36	77
1895	...	...	...	35	73
1896	...	...	...	35	74
1897	...	...	...	34	61
1898	...	...	...	39	71
1899	...	...	...	44	76
1900	...	...	...	46	73
1901	...	...	...	44	71

These figures do not substantiate the fears of some people that leprosy is spreading to any appreciable extent in these islands.

(c.) POOR HOUSE.

The number of persons in the Poor House in Antigua on the 1st January, 1901, was 104—54 were admitted during the year and 17 discharged.

The number of persons receiving outdoor relief was 894, the total amount distributed being £606.

(d.) REFORMATORIES.

(See under Education—Training School.)

(e.) SAVINGS' BANKS.

There are Savings' Banks in all the Presidencies with the exception of the Virgin Islands.

The total amounts to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1901, were as follows:—

	£
Antigua	44,236
St. Kitts	8,530
Nevis... ..	2,029
Dominica	7,637
Montserrat	3,136
Total	65,568

The total amount of deposits during the year was £23,669, and the withdrawals £21,330, the number of depositors being 2,516.

Interest has hitherto been allowed at the rate of 3 per cent.; but in Montserrat this is reduced from the 1st of April, 1902, to 2½ per cent.

The total amount of invested funds is £66,118.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(a.) POLICE.

The armed police force of the Leeward Islands numbered on the 31st December last a total strength of 189 officers and men, viz., 1 inspector-general, 3 inspectors, 3 sergeant-majors, 182 other non-commissioned officers and men. Of these 1 inspector 1 sergeant-major, and 67 other non-commissioned officers and men were stationed at Antigua, including 1 sergeant in Barbuda; 1 inspector, 1 sergeant-major, and 60 other non-commissioned officers and men in St. Kitts-Nevis; 1 inspector and 34 non-commissioned officers and men in Dominica, 1 sergeant-major and 20 non-commissioned officers and men in Montserrat, and 1 second class private in the Virgin Islands.

The divisions stationed in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Dominica were inspected by Major-General J. F. Hilton.

(b.) PRISONS.

The total number of persons committed to prison in the several gaols of the colony during the year 1901 was 1,561 (812 males, 710 females, and 39 juveniles.)

All prisoners whose sentences exceed six months are sent to the Central Prison in Antigua. The total number of prisoners received during the year at the Central Prison was 496 (237 males and 259 females) being a decrease of 396 (316 males and 80 females) under that of 1900.

The number of committals from Antigua during the year was 459 as against 857 during the previous year, being a decrease of 398, and is the lowest number of admissions during the last 10 years as the following table will show :—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1892	363	200	563
1893	419	218	632
1894	325	253	578
1895	482	243	725
1896	324	264	588
1897	348	184	532
1898	363	217	580
1899	341	206	547
1900	522	335	857
1901	252	207	459

The transfers from the other Presidencies were as follows :—

Presidency.	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	11	5	16
Dominica	5	2	7
Montserrat... ..	11	—	11
Virgin Islands	3	—	3
Total	30	7	37

The prisoners were employed as in former years in cooking, baking bread for the public institutions, making and mending prison clothing and bedding, washing clothing, cleaning, and other miscellaneous labour. Also in quarrying, stone-cutting, keeping in order the public cemetery, the pauper cemetery, and Government House grounds, and in work connected with the conversion of Scott's Hill premises into a lunatic asylum.

The total cost of each prisoner was £17 7s. 5d.

The health of the prisoners was good, only one death occurring from heart disease.

The following table gives the number of cases treated by the prison surgeon during the year :—

	Males.	Females.
Skin diseases	25	13
Bright's disease	3	—
Debility	13	4
Hernia	4	—
Eye diseases	12	3
Genito-urinary diseases	12	—
Rheumatism	25	13
Epistaxis	1	2
Fevers	57	13
Abscesses and ulcers	10	12
Headache and vertigo	7	4
Slight injuries	27	4
Malingering... ..	54	8

Making a total of 326 cases treated. The central prison continues to be one of the best of the public institutions of the Colony, and great credit is due to the chief keeper for the high standard of order and discipline to which it has been brought.

(c.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year :—

Year.	Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted, died awaiting trial, or <i>nolle prosequi</i> entered.
1897 ...	13,261	5,837	7,258
1898 ...	12,813	6,613	7,105
1899 ...	13,358	6,808	6,449
1900 ...	13,160	7,855	5,763
1901 ...	14,391	7,493	6,795

Of the offences reported 3,203 were for offences against the person, 775 for prædial larceny, 1,216 offences against property (other than prædial larceny) and the remaining 9,197 comprise all other offences.

There was a remarkable falling off in the number of offences under the head of Prædial Larceny, the figures for the year under report being 775 as against 1,431 for the previous year.

This satisfactory decrease in this class of crime may be attributed to the plentiful crop of ground provisions (the chief support of the poorer classes), the short supply of, and the

unusual demand for labour during the year, and the deterrent effect of sharp sentences inflicted on offenders for cane stealing and kindred offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 7,421 persons in the Magistrates' Courts, the convictions by the Superior Courts amounting to 72.

6,758 persons were acquitted in the Magistrates' Courts and 29 in the Superior Courts, a *nolle prosequi* was entered in 7 cases, and one prisoner died while awaiting trial.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(a.) POPULATION.

The census for the Leeward Islands was taken throughout the Colony on the night of the 31st March, 1901.

According to the returns, the population of the Colony was 127,434, consisting of 56,851 males, and 70,583 females, as against 127,723 in 1891, showing a net decrease of 289 during the last decade.

The following summary shows the population of each Presidency according to the census of 1891 and that of last year, together with the increase or decrease in each case.

POPULATION OF EACH PRESIDENCY.

Presidency.	1891.			1901.			1901.		Net in 1901.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
Antigua (including Barbuda and Redonda)	17,242	19,577	36,819	15,878	19,093	34,971	—	1,843	—	—
St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla...	22,048	25,654	47,662	20,269	26,177	46,446	—	1,216	—	—
Dominica	12,059	14,782	26,841	12,870	16,024	28,894	2,053	—	—	—
Montserrat	5,331	6,431	11,762	5,580	6,635	12,215	453	—	—	—
Virgin Islands	2,140	2,499	4,639	2,254	2,654	4,908	269	—	—	—
Total	58,740	68,943	127,723	56,851	70,583	127,434	2,775	3,064	—	289

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1901-2.

From the above figures it will be observed that the only Islands in which a decrease of population occurs are the sugar producing Islands of Antigua, St. Kitts and Nevis.

In Antigua there is a decrease of 1,941, in St. Kitts 1,094, and in Nevis 313, while in Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands increases of 2,053, 453 and 269 respectively are shown.

There was also an increase of 191 in Anguilla, and 195 in Barbuda over that of the census of 1891.

The excess of females over males is 13,733 as against 10,163 in 1891, and may be taken as an indication of the emigration of males who have left these Islands in search of employment elsewhere. In a great many instances they leave their wives and families without any visible means of support, and these eventually find their way into the charitable institutions of the Colony and become a charge on the Government.

(b.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The public health during the year was, on the whole, satisfactory. No serious epidemic of any disease occurred. The mortality from fever in the Island of Anguilla is stated to be unprecedented, the deaths amounting to 23.

The death rate of the Colony per thousand during the year 1901, was 27·35, which compares favourably with that of former years.

Many of the villages in the county districts of Antigua have now been connected by pipes with the Wallings' reservoir, and secure a pure and wholesome supply of drinking water in place of the water collected in ponds, which was the only available source from which drinking water was in former years obtainable. This will naturally have a very beneficial influence on the health of the villagers, and tend among other advantages to decrease to a very large extent the constantly recurring epidemics of diarrhoea and dysentery, resulting from drinking impure water.

(c.) SANITATION.

Sanitary Boards exist in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, by which provision is made for the enforcement of the usual sanitary regulations.

In Antigua attention is being given to the improvement of the sanitation in the country villages.

(d.) CLIMATE.

(1) *Rainfall.*

The average rainfall recorded at 65 stations in Antigua during 1901 was 57·61 inches, as against 36·95 inches recorded at 64 stations in 1900. The average rainfall for 28 years, from

1874 to 1901 inclusive, was 46.09 inches, so that the rainfall for 1901 was 11.52 inches above the average for that period. The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 4.35 inches on 1st November.

In St. Kitts the rainfall recorded at the United States Weather Bureau was 61.15 inches as against 38 inches during the previous year. There was a very heavy downpour of rain on the 2nd and 3rd November amounting to 22 inches in two days on some of the mountain estates.

In Dominica the rainfall recorded at the United States Weather Bureau was 65.71 inches. The greatest amount of rain recorded was at "Middleham" Estate where 239.50 inches fell. Several other estates recorded rainfalls of considerably over 100 inches.

In Montserrat the average rainfall recorded at 10 stations was 64.73 inches, the highest rainfall being 76.18 inches and the lowest 46.51 inches.

(2) *Temperature.*

In Antigua the highest shade temperature recorded at the Government Laboratory was 93° on April 17th, May 30th and June 1st, and the lowest 67° on March 23rd. The mean temperature for the year was 82.2 at 9 a.m. and 83.3 at 3 p.m. Five slight shocks of earthquake were recorded.

In St. Kitts the highest temperature recorded was 89° in September, and the lowest 68° in the early months of the year.

In Dominica the highest atmospheric temperature observed at the United States Weather Bureau was 91° on June 9th and August 13th, and the lowest 66° in February.

In Montserrat the highest temperature was 93° on September 6th, and the lowest 70° on March 3rd and December 30th.

(3) *Direction and Force of Wind.*

The prevailing direction of the wind in the Leeward Islands is east with occasional variations to north-east and east north-east. The average velocity per hour was 4.9 miles in Antigua, 9.0 in St. Kitts, and 5.3 in Dominica. These figures are not however a reliable index to the conditions generally prevailing in the respective Islands.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The following table gives the statistics of postal matter sent to and from the Colony during the last five years.

Year.	Letters and Cards received and sent.	Books and Papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1897	362,433	151,853	5,430
1898	375,963	155,664	6,061
1899	491,616	184,327	6,746
1900	452,137	168,820	7,079
1901	572,314	175,215	7,811

Comparing the figures for 1901 with those for 1900 we find an increase of 120,177 letters and cards received and sent, 6,395 books and papers received and sent, and 732 parcels received and sent. The total value of Money Orders issued in the Colony was £23,067 as against £27,646 in 1900, being a decrease of £4,579, while the value of Orders cashed in the Colony was £18,736 as against £14,542, exhibiting an increase of £4,194.

The subsidies paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company amount to £1,400 per annum, of which Antigua pays £500, St. Kitts-Nevis £500 and Dominica £400. There is no telegraphic communication with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands.

The Direct West India Cable Company's Cable is laid as far as Jamaica via Halifax and Bermuda, the line passing entirely through British territory. By either route telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world. The charge to the United Kingdom is 4s. 5d. per word, with a preferential rate for Government messages of 3s. 0½d. per word.

Telephones are in operation in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, there being at the end of 1901, 260 miles of wire and 144 instruments in use in the former island and 204 miles of wire and 78 instruments in use in the latter. The system is being established in Dominica, and all the public offices are now connected by telephone. Telephonic communication also exists between the towns of Roseau and Portsmouth and is being extended in various directions.

The expenditure in Antigua on the telephone system was £689 and the receipts £690. In St. Kitts the expenditure was £440 and the receipts £375.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.**(a.) REGULAR FORCES.**

(None.)

(b.) MILITIA.

(None.)

(c.) VOLUNTEER.

Volunteer defence forces have been established in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua the force was established on the occasion of Her late Majesty's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The St. John's Mounted Infantry and Infantry Companies, armed with Martini-Enfield rifles, numbered, on the 31st December 1901, 77 officers and men.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a volunteer defence force has been established since 1896, and numbered, on the 31st December, 1901, 70 officers and men. The force is divided into three companies. A. Company for Basseterre, B. Company for Country Districts of St. Kitts, and C. Company for Nevis.

The expenditure in Antigua on the defence force in 1901 was £222, and in St. Kitts-Nevis £467.

The arms are on loan from the Imperial Government.

(d.) CONSTABULARY or Semi-Military Colonial Force.*(See Police.)***X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.**

Sir Francis Fleming, K.C.M.G., relinquished the Government of the Colony of the Leeward Islands on the 5th July.

Sir George Melville, K.C.M.G., administered the Government from the 5th July to 30th October, Mr. E. A. Foster acted as Colonial Secretary from the 16th August to the 30th October, during which time Mr. W. D. Auchinleck acted as Auditor-General, and Mr. E. R. Jones as Treasurer.

Sir Henry M. Jackson, K.C.M.G. assumed the administration of the Government of the Colony on the 31st October.

Mr. John Symonds Udal, late Attorney-General of Fiji was appointed to act as Chief Justice in January. Mr. G. K. T. Purcell was appointed a District Judge of the Gold Coast Colony and was succeeded by Mr. Wattleby as

Assistant to the Attorney-General in St. Kitts on the 28th August.

Mr. F. S. Wigley acted as Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis in March and April during the absence on leave of Mr. Cox.

Mr. Edward B. Jarvis was appointed Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office and Clerk to the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands, the General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands, and the Legislative Council of Antigua on the 4th July, vice Mr. W. M. Gordon, promoted. Mr. G. O. Nugent was appointed 2nd clerk and clerk of the Local Executive Council, Mr. H. F. Holme was appointed 3rd clerk and Mr. E. D. Tibbits 4th clerk.

Mr. R. H. K. Dyett acted as magistrate, District A, from the 25th April to the 1st October, during Mr. Whyham's absence on leave, and Mr. G. C. Faille acted as chief clerk in the Registrar's Office.

Dr. Rose acted as medical officer, District No. 4 Antigua, during the absence of Dr. Earl, on leave from the 9th November.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The financial condition of the Colony of the Leeward Islands as a whole was more satisfactory for the year under review than has been the case for some years, and if the necessary impetus, in the shape of central factories, were given to the sugar industry in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat, there would be reasonable ground to look forward to a return in some degree of the prosperity which they once enjoyed.

The death of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria was an occasion that called forth the warmest and deepest expression of sympathetic loyalty on the part of all classes in the community throughout the colony, and most touching were the tokens of sincere love and regard on the part of the poorer inhabitants for their late beloved and revered sovereign.

ANTIGUA.

The only public work of any importance which is being carried on in this Presidency is the Walling's Water Works under the superintendence of Mr. W. M. Mackison, C.E. Good progress has been made in the work and the erection of village tanks, and the laying of pipes to the country villages has been proceeded with. The installation of a system of filtration has been commenced, and this, when completed, will add greatly to the value and improved character of the water supply.

The sugar crop for 1901 fell considerably below the estimate. The unusually heavy rainfall in January of the year prevented the canes maturing properly and delayed the commencement of reaping operations—whilst in June and July an excess of moisture retarded sugar manufacture, especially upon those Estates where there was a shortage of fuel, and had an unfavourable effect upon the density of the cane juice. The indifferent crushing powers of the old time mills and imperfect processes of manufacture in vogue contributed not a little to the bad results obtained. Reference should here be made to the fact that the percentage of extraction of juice is admitted to be at present 50 per cent. below that attainable with the most modern mills and there seems little hope for the re-habilitation of the sugar industry of this Colony until central factories equipped with up to date appliances are substituted for the crude and obsolete methods of manufacture at present resorted to, and thus enable the planters to compete with the other sugar producing countries on more favourable conditions than they are at present able to do.

Besides the crop being a short one, the range of prices for the year 1901 was distinctly below the average both for sugar and its bye products, Molasses and Rum. As will be seen from the Treasury returns, practically the entire crop of the island is exported to the United States of America where the system of imposing countervailing duties upon bounty fed sugar gives a distinct advantage to West Indian sugars. After the reaping season the weather continued to be very favourable for the growth of next year's crop right up to the end of December, so that the prospects of the next campaign are promising so far as the sugar crop is concerned, but the enormous visible supplies of sugar throughout the world point to a range of prices unprecedentedly low and consequently the outlook is anything but re-assuring.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The visit of Dr. G. C. Low, of the London School of Tropical Medicine, in March 1902, which was secured on the initiative of private gentlemen, and the cost of which has been borne privately, cannot fail to be of great benefit to St. Kitts, and the thanks of the public are due to Dr. Low for so generously sparing that Presidency a portion of his limited time in the West Indies.

The fact must be emphasised that the satisfactory financial position of this Presidency at the close of the year does not in itself indicate a permanent return of prosperity, as the immediate future of St. Kitts-Nevis depends wholly upon the future of the sugar industry.

DOMINICA.

In happy contrast to the industrial struggles of the other islands in the Leeward Group, it is satisfactory to note the steady progress and increased prosperity that marked the con-

dition of Dominica during 1901. The revenue amounted to nearly £30,000, and was the highest ever realised in the island; there was no increase of taxation and the improvement was entirely due to the development of trade and the increased purchasing power of the people. Although considerable sums were spent in the reconstruction and improvement of roads and in other public works, the expenditure of the Presidency was restricted to a total within the revenue, and the year closed with an accumulated surplus of nearly £6,000. Of this amount, £4,000 have been invested as a reserve fund.

The exports of produce were considerably larger than the average of preceding years, and the rapid increase in the output of the staple products is a guide to the extension of cultivation in many directions. During the last fifteen years the value of cocoa has risen from £7,000 to nearly £24,000, while the shipments of lime juice during 1901 were valued locally at £35,000. For many years Dominica has been the chief producer of lime juice and its bye-products. Proof of the remarkable extension of agriculture enterprise is found in the fact that the botanic station during 1901 distributed to planters no less than 58,000 seedling trees; principally cocoa, limes, rubber, and vanilla cuttings.

Large areas of virgin land were rendered accessible by the extension of the trunk road into the mountains and valleys of the interior.

Considerable blocks of the Crown lands were purchased during the year, and several flourishing plantations of cocoa, oranges, coffee etc., are being created there by persons possessing moderate capital, who have been attracted to this beautiful island. Good progress was made with the expenditure of the Imperial grant for road construction during 1901, and several miles of excellent bridle-road were constructed through the forests.

The immigration of labourers from the northern islands was a noticeable feature during 1901, and field hands are therefore fairly abundant. This influx bids fair to continue and the island will benefit much by the consequent increase of population.

Several of the public buildings were improved during the year, and telephone lines were extended in various directions. A contract was concluded with the Royal Mail Company for the establishment of a coasting steam service round the island, and a handsome vessel the "Yare" commenced to ply on Christmas day.

Several miles of bridle-tracks were converted into driving roads, and a number of wheeled vehicles were imported during the year. The mountain roads were also considerably improved and the highways in the Lasoye District were placed under the care of a local committee of planters.

MONTserrat.

The year commenced with a severe drought, one of the worst on record, which did not break until May. After that month, the conditions were most favourable for the crops of 1902, although heavy rains in September and October did considerable damage to the roads, and the experimental plots of onions which had recently been planted.

During the year there was no prolonged series of earthquakes similar to that in October, 1900, but on the 31st October several severe shocks were felt.

The public buildings, which were rebuilt in 1900, after the hurricane, were painted throughout, and the walls of the Treasury Buildings, which had been shaken by the earthquakes of the preceding year, were strengthened. On the northern side of the jetty, where formerly was a waste piece of land, a Government warehouse was erected and surrounded by an enclosure similar to that of the market on the southern side, the landing stage being thus improved.

In the centre of the town a large plot of land belonging to Government, on which people had squatted for many years, making it the chief fever centre of Plymouth, was cleared, and is being gradually prepared as a school garden to be opened in honour of the Coronation, and called Coronation Gardens.

To windward a large reservoir containing 80,000 gallons was constructed, which will serve as storage for the Harris' Waterworks.

The police station at Harris' Village, for which a rental of £14 was being paid, was purchased for £50. Extensive repairs are necessary, but the purchase will mean ultimate economy.

Two important diversions of roads were made at Riley's Hill to windward, and at St. Peter's at the north, whereby the gradients of the roads were reduced. As has been said, the unusually heavy rains in September and October caused great damage to the roads, especially to those in the town district. The Plymouth ghaut must, unless exhaustive embankment works are made, always remain a menace to the chief town.

In view of the mountain tops having been denuded of trees, owing to the hurricane, the Secretary of State directed Mr. C. Rogers, who was proceeding to Trinidad to take an appointment in the Crown Lands Department of that island, to visit Montserrat and report upon what measures were necessary to conserve the mountain lands. Mr. Rogers, after his visit, drew up an able report upon the recommendations of which a forestry ordinance is being prepared.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The building of a new vessel for mail and transport services which was sanctioned by the Secretary of State was completed in May, and a cutter of sloop rig, of 14 tons register, was launched during May by the Governor Sir Francis Fleming; this vessel has proved entirely satisfactory in every way and most valuable for preventive revenue, mail, and transport services; she is provided with four sleeping berths and a cabin of comfortable size and is unusually fast for vessels of her dimensions of local construction.

An estate to the north of Road Town was purchased and converted into an experimental station for the teaching of agriculture, a residence was built for the officer to be placed in charge of the station, and an instructor of agriculture appointed provisionally for this purpose; roads were cut over the estate, the sugar boiling works repaired, a small sugar mill imported, and parts of the station laid out in fruit trees, seedling canes, St. Vincent Arrowroot, Antigua pines, limes, shelter trees, and ornamental plants; seed beds also of limes, coffee, and cocoa, were established for distribution, and a sire horse and superior breeds of sheep and fowls imported from Barbados.

Steam communication is very badly required to bring the Presidency into notice, and facilitate communication with markets other than that of St. Thomas.

BARBUDA.

The island of Barbuda is plentifully stocked with game, and excellent deer shooting may be had during the months of July, August and September, while wild guinea-fowl, wild-duck and pigeons are found in great numbers.

EDWARD B. JARVIS,

For Colonial Secretary.

Leeward Islands.

W. J. L. & S. J. L.

— — —

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1601 UV-VIS spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophyll was expressed in $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ of the sample.

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No. 358.

M A L T A.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 329.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1902.



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1902.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
336	British New Guinea	1899-1900
337	Leeward Islands	1900
338	Trinidad and Tobago	"
339	British Honduras	"
340	Hong Kong	"
341	Ceylon	"
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900-1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900-1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900-1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900-1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.

No. 358.

MALTA,
1901.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1900. *see* No. 329.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. W. GRENFELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Palace, Valletta,

30th May, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your information, the Chief Secretary's Report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1901.

I have, &c.,

F. GRENFELL,

Governor.

MALTA,
1901.

Chief Secretary's Office,

Malta, 24th May, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1901 :—

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

A.—REVENUE.

The revenue collected in the year 1901 from the ordinary sources amounted to £385,698 4s. 8d., to which are to be added £50 12s. 2d., value of stores issued, and £114 14s. 4d., adjustments from Surplus and Deficit Account, giving a total of £385,863 11s. 2d. The receipts exceeded the estimate by £26,558 11s. 2d.

The revenue collected in the last five years, exclusive of stores and adjustments, stands as follows :—

Year.				Revenue.		
				£	s.	d.
1897	...	...	...	323,787	5	10½
1898	...	...	...	332,488	18	1
1899	...	...	...	354,265	15	2½
1900	...	...	...	356,758	6	10½
1901	...	...	...	385,698	4	8

INCREASE OF REVENUE.

Almost all heads of income have this year earned an increased revenue, the more appreciable increases being under (a) Customs, (b) Licenses, Court Fines, &c., (c) Post Office, (d) Railway, (e) Water Service, and (f) Electric Lighting.

The increase under Customs (a) is due to the raising of the rate of duty on wines and spirits, under the Malta Revenue Order in Council, 1899, and to the new duties levied under the Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901. The duties received under the former amounted to £30,763 6s. 6d., and those under the latter Order in Council to £49,915 1s. 6d.

As to (b) Licenses, Fees, &c., the increase is due to a larger amount of fines collected by the Courts of Magistrates of Judicial Police.

MALTA,
1901.

The increase in the Post Office Revenue (c) is attributable to a larger sale of postage stamps and to more extensive business in the parcel post service.

The Railway (d), Water Service (e), and Electric Lighting (f) show this year an improved revenue, which is to be ascribed, as regards railway, to the Imtarfa extension, and to the raising of the fares; as to (e) Water Service, to additional services laid, and to a greater consumption of water, chiefly in War Department buildings and naval establishments; and as to (f) Electric Lighting, the increase is due to further installations laid, and to the raising of the price of unit. The financial progress during the last five years of enterprises which are administered by the Government on co-operative principles as municipal concerns, is shown in the following return:—

Year.	Railway.	Water Dues and Meter Rent.	Electric Light.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897	6,705 2 11½	7,573 4 10	9,122 14 2
1898	7,108 3 3	8,200 12 8	11,236 8 1
1899	7,318 4 10	8,880 15 6½	12,860 8 7
1900	7,735 9 7½	9,628 17 11	13,312 5 6
1901	8,226 19 1½	10,245 16 4	15,024 16 10½

DECREASE IN REVENUE.

The only apparent decrease in revenue took place under Rents, Urban and Rural, and under Interest; and it resulted, as regards rents of rural tenements, from a comparison with a larger amount of arrears collected in the previous year, from reductions of rent of several tenements, and the transfer of lands to War Department. As to rents, urban, the diminution is chiefly due to the appropriation of several tenements by the Government for public utility and to transfers of property to the Imperial Government.

The decrease under Interest is mainly due to the increased rate of Income Tax deducted from other than Savings Bank investments.

GENERAL RESERVE FUND.

The balance of this fund on 2nd January, 1901, was £28,772 16s. 11d., and after appropriating therefrom a sum of £8,258 1s. 4½d. (expenditure incurred during 1901 for works

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voted under Head 21A., "Special Expenditure chargeable to General Reserve Fund"), it was reduced to £20,514 5s. 6½d., which is the balance on 2nd January, 1902. Against this balance there were at that date other liabilities for unexpended balances of votes required for immediate expenditure during the financial period between 1st January and 31st March, 1902, to the amount of £4,561 0s. 7½d., leaving a balance available for further expenditure and for votes postponed of £15,953 4s. 11d.

EXPENDITURE.

The provisions allocated for expenditure by grants on the Civil List, Orders in Council, and Ordinances of Appropriation amounted this year, on an aggregate, to £421,763 0s. 4½d. Out of these provisions, the following was the expenditure actually incurred (exclusive of that out of Immovable Property Account under Ordinance V. of 1891, hereafter reported upon):—

As chargeable to Consolidated Revenue:—

By Grants chargeable to the Civil List and Ordinances of Appropriation	£375,510	2	1½
By Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901	10,353	9	0½
	<u>£385,863</u>	11	2
As chargeable to General Reserve Fund	8,258	1	4½
	<u>£394,121</u>	12	6½

The above expenditure is divided as follows, namely:—

Expenditure by grants chargeable to the Civil List, Ordinances of Appropriation, and Reserve Fund:—

Personal emoluments	£139,821	13	0
Other charges (including Works Recurrent and Extraordinary)	243,946	10	6
	<u>£383,768</u>	3	6

Under the Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901:—

Personal emoluments	£1,892	14	3
Extraordinary works...	8,460	14	9½
	<u>10,353</u>	9	0½
	<u>£394,121</u>	12	6½

The unexpended balances on 31st December, 1901, amounted, therefore, in the aggregate, to £27,641 7s. 10d., resulting mainly from balances of votes for works not completed in 1901 and re-voted for 1902, as well as from savings on works and services during the year under review.

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The total expenditure of the Government in each of the last five years, exclusive of a sum of £386 14s. 5d., incurred out of the Immovable Property Account, was as follows:—

Year.	Chargeable to Consolidated Revenue.	Chargeable to General Reserve Fund.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897	320,710 6 8	3,963 1 7	324,673 7 10
1898	322,900 19 6½	16,181 19 8	339,082 19 2½
1899	341,182 3 10½	10,172 7 11	351,354 11 9½
1900	359,202 19 8½	6,740 17 5	365,943 17 1½
1901	385,863 11 2	8,258 1 4½	394,121 12 6½

EXPENDITURE CHARGEABLE TO THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

No new provision was appropriated by the Council of Government out of this fund in 1901.

The actual expenditure incurred as chargeable against the balance carried forward from grants voted out of this fund in previous years, was as follows:—

For the railway	... ... ...	£89 7 3
For new school at Cospicua	... ... ...	283 4 6
For expropriation of lands near Zabbar Gate and near Addolorata Cemetery	... ... ...	14 2 8
		<hr/> £386 14 5 <hr/>

INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE.

The services on account of which a noticeable increased expenditure was incurred during the year under review were: (a) Chief Secretary's Department, (b) Receiver-General and Director of Contracts Department, (c) Customs, (d) Audit, (e) Railway Special Expenditure, (f) Railway Technical School,

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(*g*) Police, (*h*) Public Health, (*z*) Prisons, (*j*) Charitable Institutions, (*k*) Elementary Schools, (*l*) Miscellaneous Services, (*m*) Superintendent of Public Works, (*n*) Water Works and Electric Lighting, and (*o*) Works Recurrent.

The increase of expenditure under the foregoing heads was brought about by the circumstances hereunder briefly stated:—

(*a*) Chief Secretary's Department, (*c*) Customs, (*d*) Audit, and (*m*) Superintendent of Public Works, by periodical increments of salaries and promotions of clerks; (*b*) Receiver-General, by larger expenditure in legal proceedings for the recovery of rents, or other financial objects; (*e*) Railway Special Expenditure, by improvements in the rolling stock and the reconstruction of a portion of the line with heavier rails; (*f*) Railway Technical School, by the enlargement of the school, the removal of the steam-hammer to another site of the Hamrun station, and an additional stock of tools and plant; (*g*) Police Department, chiefly by the temporary employment of men from the Royal Malta Artillery to do police duties, and the purchase of horses for the mounted police; (*h*) Public Health Department, by the employment of additional medical officers in connection with the new sanitary law; (*z*) Prisons, by a larger issue of articles of provisions, bedding, &c., owing to the increased number of prisoners; (*j*) Charitable Institutions, by the rise in price of many articles of provisions, the increased number of inmates in the asylums, and salaries of new situations in the Leper hospital; (*k*) Elementary Schools, by improvements in the salaries of the teaching staff and the increment of the inspector's salary; (*l*) Miscellaneous Services, chiefly by expenses in connection with the census, and drawbacks; (*n*) Water Works and Electric Lighting, by a larger supply of meters and greater consumption of coal; and, finally, as to (*o*) Recurrent Works, the increase is due to a greater number of works and improvements carried out during the year.

DECREASE IN EXPENDITURE

A decrease in the expenditure was obtained under (*a*) Interest, (*b*) Pensions, (*e*) Railway Department, (*d*) Legal Department, (*e*) Educational Department, and (*f*) Works Extraordinary.

The causes of these decreases may be summarized as follows:—

(*a*) Interest, due chiefly to the Income Tax charged to the Savings Bank at the increased rate, and to several unclaimed charges; (*b*) Pensions, due to the death of several pensioners; (*e*) Railway Department, due to the diminished consumption of coals, coal dust having been converted into patent fuel; (*d*) Legal Departments, due to differences in salaries on the transfer of clerks and writers; (*e*) Educational Department, due to the payment of salaries for a certain period, disallowed by the

Council and charged to the Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901; (f) Works Extraordinary, due to a smaller number of works carried out during the year.

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EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC WORKS RECURRENT AND EXTRAORDINARY.

The total expenditure from revenue and other balances actually incurred in the Public Department was as follows:—

From Revenue—			
Recurrent	...	...	£53,328 10 1½
Extraordinary	...	...	15,452 15 1½
From General Reserve Fund	...	...	8,258 1 4½
From Immovable Property Account	...	...	386 14 5
			<hr/> £77,426 1 0½

besides £8,460 14s. 9½d., charged this year to Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901, and passed partly in repayments of works carried out under Special Warrants of Advances in this and previous years, and partly transferred to Special Deposits, representing balances of costs of works incompleated.

The above sum of £77,426 1s. 0½d., when compared with the provisions voted from Revenue and balances brought forward from other funds, amounting collectively to £89,747 14s. 4½d., shows that £1,234 13s. 4d. remained unexpended at the close of this year on account of savings and incompleated works.

NEW DRAINAGE WORKS UNDER SCHEDULE B.

The extension of the drainage system, for which several Warrants of Advance have from time to time been issued, takes a prominent place among the works carried out during the year. The total expenditure on this service, up to 31st December, 1901, amounted to £47,867 11s. 5d., viz.:—

Expended during the year	...	...	£24,423 16 10
Expended in previous years	...	...	23,443 14 7
			<hr/> £47,867 11 5

so distributed:—

On Sliema drainage	...	...	£28,511 10 1½
On Rabato Intercepting sewer	12,089 11 7½
On Curmi street sewers	7,266 9 8
			<hr/> £47,867 11 5

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Against this amount (£47,867 11s. 5d.) the Government of Malta received an Imperial contribution of £4,108, representing the instalment of 5 per cent., payable on commencement of work, towards the cost of the above three items; and £2,712 14s. 9½d. were repaid from Expenditure under the Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901. The total amount thus transferred to the credit of Special Advances, in part repayment of cost of drainage works, under Schedule B., amounted to £6,820 14s. 9½d.

The balance, therefore, of expenditure under Warrants remaining uncovered on the 31st December, 1901, was £41,046 16s. 7½d.

The above amount forms part of the sum of £49,034 13s. 5½d. appearing under Assets. That sum, up to the 13th May, 1902, was reduced to £11,691 17s. 9d., and it is hoped that the necessity for such advances appearing as Assets may not recur.

TAXATION.

The revenue of the Island is derived mainly from import duties.

By an Order in Council of 1901, the purport of which is explained further on in this report under Legislation, the duties on wine, spirits, or strong waters, and on beer, were revised, and a duty was established on petroleum, sugar, and tobacco, which were not formerly subject to any impost.

According to the new tariff, the duty paid on—

Wine is on a rising scale, according to the percentage of alcohol contained in 100 parts of dutiable liquid; the rate rising from 3·789d. per imperial gallon, containing 15 per cent. of alcohol, up to 4s. 5·68d. per imperial gallon on wine containing 23 per cent. of alcohol. Wine containing more than 57 per cent. of alcohol is charged as proof spirit. The revised scale tends to proportion the duty to the amount of absolute alcohol in the liquid.

Sparkling and still wines imported in bottles, jars, or otherwise than in casks, are subject to an additional duty of 3s. and 1s. 2d. per gallon respectively. These duties are comparatively light.

Spirits and strong waters, of any strength not exceeding proof by Sykes' hydrometer (London proof), and so in proportion for any strength greater than proof, are subject to duty on the basis of 5s. the imperial gallon, or £2 7s. 6d. per Maltese barrel.

Beer containing 1 per cent. of proof spirit, or more than 1 per cent., pays 4½d. per gallon, and 1d. per gallon when it contains not more than 1 per cent. of proof spirit. This classification was established to avoid a prohibitive duty on very light beers and non-alcoholic drinks resembling beer.

The duty on beer is levied on every reputed hogshead of 48 gallons, reputed English barrel of 32 gallons, reputed kilderkin of 16 gallons, and reputed firkin of 8 gallons, unless the importer prefers to have the actual quantity of beer gauged, in which case duty is charged on the actual quantity imported, an allowance being made only for waste liquid at the rate of 5 per cent.

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The duty on petroleum is 1*d.* per gallon, and on sugar 0·1428*d.* per pound when refined, and 0·0342*d.* when raw. The duty on sugar is comparatively low, and not proportioned to the saccharine value.

Tobacco is subject to duty as follows:—

Manufactured, viz.:—

	Per pound.
	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>
Cigars or cigarettes	1 0
Cavendish or Negrohead (adjusted to 9 <i>d.</i> per pound by Proclamation, No. VII., of 17th May, 1902)	1 2
Other manufactured tobacco	0 8
Snuff containing more than 13 pounds of moisture in every 100 pounds weight thereof	0 7
Snuff not containing more than 13 pounds of moisture	0 9
Leaf tobacco	0 2

Stamp duties are, by the same Order in Council, imposed on (a) Notarial Acts, (b) Bills of Exchange, (c) Bills of Lading, (d) Charter Party, (e) Policy of Insurance, (f) Receipts, (g) Appraisements or Valuations, (h) Sales or other Transfers, and (i) Licences.

More supervision and an energetic inspector with wide powers would help to stop evasions of the Stamp duties.

The levying of the above duties commenced on the 7th October, 1901, the day of the proclamation of the Order in Council in the Island, with the exception of the Stamp duties, which came into operation on the 1st January last. There has not, therefore, been sufficient time for ascertaining, even approximately, the amount likely to be derived from this duty.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The liabilities of the Government Treasury on the 31st December, 1900, amounted to £695,185 1*s.* 9½*d.*, and the assets to £698,854 19*s.* 3*d.*, or a surplus of assets over liabilities of £3,668 17*s.* 5½*d.*

On the 31st December, 1901, the assets were £717,984 4*s.* 5½*d.* and the liabilities £714,365 19*s.* 2*d.*, leaving a balance in favour of the Government of £3,618 5*s.* 3½*d.*

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PUBLIC DEBT.

There is no public debt in Malta, but the Government Treasury is liable to the payment of interest on the private capital of widows, orphans, and poor people which was lost in the failure of the "Massa Frumentaria," (a monopoly for the importation of corn) whose stocks were depleted on the invasion of these Islands by the French in 1798. The capital admitted to interest stands now at £79,168 5s. 2d., and is held, in part, by wealthy persons.

This liability originated in a legislative proclamation issued in March, 1805.

This amount was, according to a revision of claims in 1819, assessed at £102,533 14s. 3d. By Ordinance, No. XIII., of 1858, shares were made transferable by certificates, the minimum being for £10. The right to receive the interest for each one of the years indicated in the certificate is barred by prescription after the lapse of five years reckoned from the last day of March of such year, and on the expiration of five years from the last day of March of the last of the years indicated in any certificate, such certificate ceases for all intents and purposes to have any effect, and it does not give to the holder any right either to receive the interest already due, or to the substitution of another certificate.

Of the original debt, £21,394 1s. 8d. was bought in by the Government since 1819, and a further sum of £1,971 7s. 4½d. has otherwise fallen in. The interest paid in 1901 amounted to £1,730 1s. 0d.

Interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. is also paid by the Government on investments under Ordinance No. V. of 1895, whereby it is enacted that sums of money not less than £50 (being the price of property subject to any entail the revocation of which may have been ordered by the Court for any ground other than of public utility), and belonging to minors and persons considered by the law of unsound mind, insane, or prodigal, to widows and to any other persons having interest in a dowry or a settlement on a wife, might, by order of the competent Court, be invested in the purchase from the Government of a perpetual annuity to be, on such order, constituted by the Government of Malta at the rate of 2½ per cent. The investments in such annuities in 1901 amounted to £200.

CURRENCY.

Pursuant to Order in Council of the 24th September, 1886, British coins are the only legal tender in these Islands; gold coins below tender weight are rejected, and are usually purchased by weight only, the holder bearing the cost of abrasion. The limit up to which silver and bronze coins are received is fixed.

at five pounds and one shilling respectively. Payment by cheques is now adopted with great advantage by the Government and the commercial community.

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The maximum rate of exchange with London during the past year was:—

Banker's draft, per £100—

6s. on demand, 5s. being the normal rate.

5s. at 3 days' sight.

2s. 6d. at 30 days' date.

Par at 60 days' date.

$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. discount at 90 days' date.

Cable transfer, per £100:—

Maximum rate 7s., normal 6s., premium.

Commercial bills, per £100:—

At 30 days' date, 5s. discount.

At 90 days' date, 15s. discount.

The exchange on France ranged between f. 25·10 and f. 25·20 per £1, and on Italy between 25·75 and 26·25, the average rate for the year being 26.

The British gold coin held in Malta fluctuates according to the sums imported and exported, and the requirements of the fleet. The amount in circulation in the Island is estimated at £520,000, distributed as follows: £420,000 sovereigns, £15,000 half sovereigns, and £85,000 silver coins. The note circulation is restricted to the notes of two local banks, and is estimated at about £20,000; the Banks are not obliged to furnish any return.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

In the absence of statistical data, and of any law requiring the production of manifests of exportation, the quantities of goods exported, and those of non-dutiable goods imported from different countries, cannot be positively ascertained. There is no doubt, however, that the importation of hardware, enamel-ware, electro-plate, household goods, hosiery, clothing material, &c., from foreign countries is materially increasing, and that such importations meet the gradual increase in the demand for those articles and take the place of similar goods which used previously to be imported from the United Kingdom.

The chief causes which have operated in late years in this direction have already been mentioned in previous reports. To those causes others have been added favouring the substitution of articles of foreign manufacture for British goods. The establishment of a direct steam communication between this port and America, coupled with favourable trading terms and the efforts of the Consul for the United States of America, have

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been conspicuous in furthering the interests of American manufacturers and dealers in food-stuffs. The imports from the United States are principally flour, cotton-seed oil, cycles, and fancy goods. The first steamers which started this direct communication with America belonged to an English company—"The Phelps's Direct Line"; but a more frequent communication has now been established by the "Hamburg American Line." The average of arrivals between the two companies is three a month.

The statistical returns furnished by the Customs Department show that the Customs dues collected during the year under report amounted to £229,642 19s. 4d., or an increase of £24,579 11s. 10d. over the previous year. Of this increase, the new duties on sugar, tobacco, and petroleum, collected under the Order in Council of 1901, between the 7th October and the 31st December, produced £3,379 6s. 9d.

The total value of the imports of dutiable goods for 1901 was £9,915,254, as against £7,434,289, or an increase of £2,480,965; of the above total £1,299,309 is the value of goods actually landed for local consumption; £8,615,945 being the value of cargoes of dutiable goods re-exported in the same vessels.

The imports from the United Kingdom amounted to £425,363, an increase of £120,353 over last year, and they were all landed for local consumption; those from British colonies amounted to £94,333, of which £52,480 were re-exported; and the value of the goods imported from foreign countries was £9,392,787, of which only £829,322 were for local consumption.

The imports from the United Kingdom were higher in regard to beer, preserved meat, manufactured grain, and spirits, while there was a decrease in cotton-seed oil, potatoes, and high class wine.

The imports from the British colonies were higher as regards beef and mutton and pulse, and lower in respect to wheat and barley. Imports from foreign countries show an improvement in beer, bullocks, sheep, horses, Indian corn, olive oil, potatoes, spirits, and wine, and a decrease in wheat, barley, saggina, cotton-seed oil, pulse, and seeds.

The decrease in the quantity of wheat imported has been compensated by a corresponding increase in manufactured grain, principally in the shape of flour.

The present means of communication with America already alluded to, coupled with the fact that the flour which is imported is finer and cheaper than that produced in the Island, have caused a further increase (£3,494 6s. 2d.) in the duty collected on imported manufactured grain, and about an equal decrease (£3,434 1s.) in that on wheat, the percentage of protection in favour of wheat against flour in the present tariff being 39. The increase which would otherwise have resulted under the

two items combined in consequence of the ordinary increase of the population was probably met by a larger consumption of meat and other commodities, and this clearly points to an improvement in the condition of the lower classes, and a wider departure from a diet of bread and oil.

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Indian Corn, Barley, Saggina, Inferior and Refuse Grain.—The decrease of £458 13s. 6d. in the duty on Indian corn, barley, saggina, and inferior grain, and of £408 15s. 6d. on other food for animals, such as pulse and cotton seed, amounting in the aggregate to £959 9s., was principally caused by the disposal of an exceptional accumulation of refuse grain, the receipts on which exceeded by £956 7s. 5d. those of the previous year, the decrease on cotton seed being also partly attributable to the quarantine restrictions in force against Smyrna, whence the article is principally imported.

Bullocks, Sheep, and Frozen Meat.—The increase of £2,977 3s. 2d. under this head is partly attributable to a large consumption of beef by a portion of the population already referred to, but principally to the larger number of military and naval forces stationed in the Island during the year.

Oil and Potatoes.—The small increase of £41 9s. 6d. on oil is due to ordinary fluctuations in the market, whilst the increase of £771 5s. 9d. on potatoes is partly due to the fact that certain importations usually made towards the end of the year were not made at the end of 1900 but at the beginning of 1901, and partly to the favourable prices obtained abroad for Maltese potatoes exported during 1900, which encouraged merchants to import a large quantity of seed potatoes for agricultural purposes during the following year.

Spirits.—The receipts on spirits during 1901, £30,763 6s. 6d., compared with those of 1900, £18,307 15s. 8d., show an increase of £12,455 10s. 10d., which is attributable to the increase in the rate of duty. The decrease of bls. 2953·12 in the importation of spirits is due to the fact that a portion of the spirit which had been imported in anticipation of the increase in the rate of duty was still to be disposed of during the year, whilst the rise in the price of the spirits in consequence of such increase of duty has brought about some reduction in consumption. There has in consequence arisen a larger consumption of wine and beer, and some revival of attempts to smuggle.

Wine and Beer.—The importation of wine and beer in 1901 was bls. 303,865·90 and bls. 142,889·72 respectively, and the Customs receipts on these articles amounted to £39,863 6s. 8d. and £22,618 14s. 10d. respectively. The increase is due to the necessity of meeting the requirements of the ordinary increase of population, and the decrease in the consumption of spirits produced by the causes above referred to, the increase on beer being also partly attributable to the number of naval seamen in port, and to a large consumption of this beverage by the lower classes.

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The following table shows the value of dutiable goods imported for the last five years preceding 1901, and their average compared with the value of imports of that year:—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1896	10,472,139	143,629	129,716	414	10,198,380
1897	10,895,639	150,473	92,429	358	10,652,379
1898	10,025,131	203,517	519,608	485	9,301,521
1899	6,668,961	297,830	408,685	2,255	5,960,191
1900	7,434,289	305,010	89,208	987	7,039,084
Average of five years	9,099,232	220,092	247,929	899	8,630,311
1901	9,915,254	425,363	94,333	2,771	9,392,787
Above average ...	816,022	205,271	—	1,872	529,476
Below average ...	—	—	153,596	—	—

EXPORTS.

The total value of the exports, exclusive of local produce, was £8,683,126, as against £6,471,567 in the previous year, or an increase of £2,211,559.

Of the exports, £81,153 represents the value of goods actually landed and re-exported, and £8,601,973 the value of goods which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same vessels.

The total exports for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1897... ..	10,088,760	1,784,834	1,891,114	9,103	6,403,709
1898... ..	9,379,140	2,088,589	1,408,986	13,013	5,868,552
1899... ..	5,449,501	919,202	617,563	9,924	3,902,812
1900... ..	6,471,567	1,100,924	814,929	7,716	4,547,998
1901... ..	8,683,126	1,549,412	1,106,302	12,555	6,014,857

The exports of local produce, as ascertained from the shipping agents at this port, were:—

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Potatoes—Cantars, 93,164=cwts. 145,568, against 87,459 cwts. in 1900.

Onions—Cantars, 3,576=cwts. 5,587, against 11,872 cwts. in 1900.

Cumin seed—Cantars, 3,915=cwts. 6,117, against 5,786 cwts. in 1900.

Vegetables—Cantars, 6,109=cwts. 9,545, against 8,177 cwts. in 1900.

Oranges—Doz. 6,240, against 22,035 doz. in 1900.

Cotton goods of local manufacture—Maltese canes 351,769, against 355,372 in 1900, and 254,755 in 1899.

Goats—No. 616, against 112 in 1900.

Mules—No. 36.

Stone—51,953 slabs, 800 tons in blocks, and 12 packages of stone work.

The export of Malta stone (free-stone) was 800 tons in blocks and 1,400 slabs to Italy; 5,010 slabs to Greece; 12 packages of stone-work and 17,443 slabs to Turkey; and 2,810 slabs to Egypt. The quality of the stone exported weighs about one cwt. to the cubic foot.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture in Malta maintains its traditional character, which dates many centuries back. Many of the crops and fruit trees known in temperate and sub-tropical climates are grown here. The product of the land, except a part of the crop of potatoes, onions, cumin seed, oranges, mandarines, and melons, which are exported, is consumed locally.

ACREAGE.

The area under crop or on which fruit trees are grown is estimated at 38,545 acres, or a little more than half the extent of the Maltese Islands. Of the remaining half, only 3,755 acres are returned as uncultivated land, consisting mainly of barren rock. A diminution in the arable land, to the extent of 6,000 acres, is due to the fact that the Island of Comino is at present held for sanitary purposes only, no cultivation being carried on on the same, to the taking-up of building sites in suburban districts, and to the construction of new roads, parade grounds, and other military requirements.

HOLDINGS, LAND TENURE, &C.

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The number of holdings remained stationary, about 10,000, with an average of four acres for a holding. The system of land tenure prevailing is a short lease for four or eight years, the traditional rotation of crops being four years, and only plots of land which admit of being improved are given on long lease. The rent of land is relatively high, ranging from £1 to £7 an acre.

CROPS.

Wheat is generally grown for making bread. In Gozo, however, and in some places in Malta, a mixed crop of wheat and barley sown together (called "Mischiato") is also grown for making bread. Barley locally raised has superior malting properties; it supplies the local brewery, and it is used as food for horses, and it is occasionally exported.

Of the beans and pulse, the broad bean is the most extensively grown, the greater part is picked green, and what remains is saved for seed. Sicilian farmers sometimes buy large quantities of the black seed variety for purposes of cultivation.

Potatoes are grown nearly all the year round. There are three distinct crops:—the spring crop, raised from imported Irish seed; the summer crop, grown only on irrigated land; and the winter crop, which is raised from seed saved from the spring crop. Imported Irish seed sold last year at an average price of 8s. 4d. per cantar of 175 pounds, equal to 5s. 4d. per cwt. Potato-growing is sometimes very remunerative, but it is a risky speculation in Malta. It requires a considerable initial expenditure in the form of cost of the seed and in the preparation of the soil, and the produce is greatly dependent on the weather, and on the prevalence of disease. To obtain high market prices in England, the time of sowing is very early, but if the seed selected is of inferior quality these early crops very often fail.

Onions were not largely grown last year. Out of a total of 384 acres under onions, 138 were in the district of Siggieui.

The produce of cumin seed was in excess of the demand, hence a good quantity remained unsold.

Orange trees, lemons, and mandarines are badly infected with scale insects, and the fruit is spoiled by the orange-fly. Various expedients have been under consideration for the systematic treatment of scale insects. The orange-growing industry, once so prosperous, is on the decline on account of competition from other centres, and of the deterioration in the quality of the fruit.

Other fruit trees grown are the pomegranate, peach, pear, plum, medlar, fig, prickly pear, carob, olive, mulberry, and the vine.

Many of these trees, especially the fig and prickly pear, being planted in single lines along the walls of open fields, are doing well, and the produce is satisfactory. The pomegranate, peach, pear, plum, medlar, and mulberry, which are planted in groups in gardens, suffer from exhaustion of the soil, and are almost all infested with insect pests. The produce last year was poor, although better than in recent years. The carob in its natural state thrives well, and it produced a good crop last year, which sold at a high price. Olive culture is falling off, and it was only by two farmers that a small quantity of oil was extracted.

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During the last ten years there has been a steady increase in the plantation of vines, especially in the Island of Gozo. The number of plants, in fact, now exceeds a million. Unfortunately, however, farmers give preference to the vine yielding table grapes, as it fetches a higher price on the market than wine-making grapes after manufacture into wine. The wine-producing industry is now gaining ground in some quarters, and excellent wine, selling at a good price, is being produced in Malta.

Locally-grown cotton, once so famous, has been reduced to a second class crop. Only 737 acres were grown last year, and in some districts its culture was given up altogether.

Vegetables are grown all the year round on irrigated land, and in open fields during the rainy season. The importation of fresh vegetables from Sicily by the daily mail steamer is felt keenly by gardeners, who cannot get the former high prices for their early crop.

The area under forage has been increased during the last few years. Farmers have realized the fact that with an increase in the number of live stock a greater demand for forage would be expected. The crop, especially of the Maltese clover, was good, and the price was fairly remunerative. Besides the clover, barley and other forage plants, cut green, are grown. Experiments with the prickly comfrey and tenugreek are now being tried, and it is hoped that before long they will be added to the list of crops. The extensive growing of clover benefits local agriculture in many ways. It is in itself an index of increase in the number of live stock, and, therefore, of manure-producing sources; it does not exhaust the soil, but it enriches the same, through the symbiotic action of nitrogen-fixing micro-organisms; the roots remain in the soil, and, when they decay, tend to give it a loamy texture. A drawback, however, is the consequence of extensive clover culture. The soil for nearly one whole year remains untilled, and weeds of all sorts, the wood sorrel especially, are allowed to grow and spread. It is in this way that the *oxalis cernua* (wood sorrel) has grown to be a nuisance all over both Islands.

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LIVE STOCK.

The returns of live stock are based on the weekly declaration of the farmers. The number of horses, including mules and asses, is 10,206, or nearly one animal for every 20 persons. Some are used for agricultural work, but the greater part are employed in the transport of persons, goods, and agricultural produce.

Horned cattle include farm animals employed in agricultural work and such as are stall-fed for the supply of fresh meat. Most of the latter are returned from suburban districts.

Among the milk-producing animals are sheep, whose milk is turned into cheese. The inhabitants are principally supplied with fresh milk by goats, whose milking capabilities are in many cases phenomenal.

The number of pigs is 3,590, some are of local breed, but the greater part are imported. They supply fresh meat, some of which is manufactured into sausages.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

Very few industries are worth mentioning. The wine-producing industry has already been referred to in dealing with the vine culture, and the extensive plantation, and the production of wine.

Honey is produced on a small scale over different spots of the Island, especially at the north-west extremity, where, overlying the upper coralline limestone, are uncultivated lands suitable for the growth of the wild thyme. A firm at Birchircara cultivates the bee on a rational and commercial basis, and the honey produced is of the first quality. The output could be increased were it not for the destruction of the thyme, which is, when dry, collected for fuel.

Elaterium.—Hitherto, elaterium was extracted from the capsules of the squirting cucumber, which is a wild plant. It is now cultured in some fields for the purpose of manufacturing the drug. The culture is, however, very restricted as yet, but it is hoped that it will be increased if found remunerative.

The canaigre and sisal plant are being tried only on an experimental scale.

BOTANIC STATIONS.

There are no botanic stations as yet in the Colony answering to that name. There is a botanic garden, and the Agricultural Society has an experimental farm at its disposal. It is also proposed to start a Government model farm.

The botanic garden is an institution annexed to the University, and its principal scope is to furnish living materials for

the study of general and medical botany. During the last ten years it has been increased in extent and scope.

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The following fall now within its object:—

1. Practical teaching of botany to students in the faculty of literature and science, and of medical botany to students in the faculty of medicine and pharmacy.
2. The formation of collections of plants, classified according to their natural affinities.
3. The systematic introduction of new plants, ornamental or economic, to suit the soil and climate of the Maltese Islands.
4. The distribution, by sale or exchange, of plant seeds, bulbs, &c.
5. The spread of information by correspondence, or otherwise, of various branches of botany and agriculture.
6. The training of apprentices in the art of gardening.
7. The taking of earth temperature at various depths.
8. The formation of an herbarium and botanical library.

The botanic garden is a very ancient institution. It was founded, in 1676, under the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and, with the exception of the Oxford botanic garden, founded in 1630, and that of Edinburgh, which originated in 1670, it is the oldest in the British Empire.

The Società Economico Agraria is an independent body in receipt of annual grants from the Government, viz., £80 for the encouragement and improvement of agriculture, £20 towards a model farm, and £67 to enable the society to select local agricultural produce for season competition, and award prizes. The society originated when Sir William Reid was Governor, and its main object has been to hold an annual agricultural show at Boschetto. In the experimental farm seeds are tested before they are distributed to farmers. Many suggestions for the benefit of the agricultural community have from time to time been made, but the society could not accomplish much in the absence of an executive paid to give effect to projects which had been approved. The Government has, therefore, appointed an Inspector of Agriculture, whose duties are the following:—

1. To have direction of the Government model farm.
2. To collect and transmit periodically, for publication, useful information and statistical data on agriculture.
3. To report to Government the nature and extent of diseases affecting the plants and crops, and to suggest remedies, and supervise their distribution and application.

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4. To inspect, or cause competent persons to inspect, agricultural produce, tubers, or seeds, subject to disease, on their importation in these Islands.

5. To issue certificates in connection with local produce free from disease.

6. To advise the Government as to any measures to be taken to prevent the importation into these Islands of disease affecting agriculture.

7. To correspond with the authorities of botanical gardens in Great Britain, the colonies, and the Continent, with a view to the gradual and systematic introduction of new, useful, and ornamental trees and plants adapted to the climatic and telluric conditions of these Islands.

8. To supply Government institutions with seeds, shrubs, and trees, when required.

9. To advise heads of departments, whenever required, on the planting of trees and plants.

Besides the duties above mentioned, the Inspector of Agriculture is expected to perform any other duties in connection with agriculture which the head of the Government may require of him.

SHIPPING.

The shipping returns show the following comparison between 1900 and 1901 :—

Year.	Steamers Entered.		Steamers Cleared.		Sailing Vessels Entered.		Sailing Vessels Cleared.		TOTALS.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1900	2,549	3,473,576	2,546	3,463,036	1,265	64,512	1,255	63,446	7,615	7,069,630
1901	2,523	3,463,906	2,527	3,471,371	1,387	69,797	1,403	71,281	7,840	7,076,355
Increase in 1901 ...	—	—	—	3,275	122	5,285	148	7,835	225	6,725
Decrease in 1901 ...	26	9,670	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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1901.

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1901.**

It will be observed that whilst the totals show an increase both in the number of vessels and in tonnage, the increase is only in sailing vessels, there being, on the other hand, a decrease in the number of steamers entered and cleared.

The following figures apportion the tonnage between British and foreign shipping which entered and cleared in 1901 with cargoes, compared with the corresponding figures for 1900:—

	1901.		1900.		Total.	
	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	1901.	1900.
Entered ...	2,413,309	1,045,126	2,355,458	1,053,200	3,458,435	3,408,658
Cleared ...	2,202,436	1,000,553	2,095,539	1,000,012	3,202,989	3,095,551
Total ...	4,615,745	2,045,679	4,450,997	2,053,212	6,661,424	6,504,209

It appears from the foregoing figures that the general movement of shipping with cargo in 1901, as distinguished from vessels in ballast, gave a total of 6,661,424 register tons, an increase of 157,215 tons, as compared with 1900, and that the increase belongs entirely to British tonnage, which shows an improvement of 164,748 tons, whilst foreign shipping has decreased by 7,533 tons.

The following table is a comparative statement of the total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years:—

Year.			Entered.		Cleared.	
			No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1897	...	...	4,111	3,637,426	4,098	3,607,042
1898	...	...	3,890	3,563,728	3,874	3,581,993
1899	...	...	3,560	3,297,712	3,580	3,292,942
1900	...	...	3,814	3,538,088	3,801	3,531,542
1901	...	...	3,910	3,533,703	3,930	3,542,652

LEGISLATION.

MALTA,
1901.

The Council of Government held 33 sittings between the 16th January and the 24th December, 1901, during which period 18 legal enactments were passed. Of these, four (Nos. I., IX., X., and XI.) are Ordinances of Appropriation, and Nos. V. and XII. Consolidation Ordinances. Of the other Ordinances, Nos. IV., VI., VIII., XIII., XIV., XV., and XVI. are the most important.

Ordinance No. IV. authorizes the Registrar of the Superior Courts to dispose, by public auction, of articles of a nominal value or no value which formed part of old "regular deposits," under the authority of the Court, but the origin of which could not be traced.

Ordinance No. VI. has for its object the substitution in existing laws of words to indicate, in place of Her Majesty the Queen, the Sovereign for the time being of the United Kingdom.

Ordinance No. VII., or "The Second Sanitary Law, 1900," is the second of a series of enactments that have become necessary for a thorough revision and consolidation of the sanitary laws. The First Sanitary Ordinance had for its object the consolidation and amendment of the law relating to the organization of the Public Health Department, to which the execution of the duties of all sanitary laws is entrusted. This Second Sanitary Ordinance consolidates and amends the laws referring to the practice of sanitary and kindred professions.

The Ordinance is divided into eight chapters, containing the necessary provisions, the first as regards the practice of sanitary and kindred professions, the second respecting physicians and surgeons, the third concerning veterinary surgeons, the fourth respecting apothecaries, the fifth respecting midwives, the sixth with regard to dentists and phlebotomists, the seventh respecting trades akin to sanitary professions, and the last chapter refers to procedure and punishments.

This Ordinance was, later in the year, repealed, but all its provisions were re-enacted in the repealing Ordinance (No. XIII. of 1901), with the exception of the fourth paragraph of Article 5, according to which the licence to practise the profession of physician and surgeon could not be granted to a person who has been admitted to practise his profession under the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament, unless he satisfied the Medical Board that he has attended one or more recognized hospitals in Malta or abroad, and has therein practised medicine or surgery for at least one year after having been admitted to practise his profession under the provisions of an Act of Parliament.

The law, as amended, affords to the registered medical practitioners of the United Kingdom such privileges of practising in Malta as are granted to graduates of the Malta University, and

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—

leaves no legal objection to the second part of the Medical Act, 1886, being extended to Malta. That Act was, in fact, made applicable to these Islands by His Majesty's Order in Council of 26th September, 1901.

Ordinance No. VIII. amends Article 967 of the laws of organization and civil procedure, which provided that when a deposit of anything, not being a deposit of money, is made under the authority of the Court, and when the parties interested neglect to take the steps prescribed in order that such deposits may be disposed of, it shall be in the power of the Court, on a representation by the Registrar, to order that the interested parties be called upon to take such steps within a reasonable period to be fixed by the Court, and, if they omit to do so, the said Court shall be empowered to decree that the things deposited be withdrawn by the owner, or that they be sold by auction, in which latter case the proceeds of the sale by auction shall be deposited.

It was found in practice that as the Registrar had power to apply for orders for the disposal of deposits only when he thought that the parties concerned had neglected to take steps to dispose of the deposits, the Registrar did not make use of such powers, the consequence being that valuable stores belonging to the Government became encumbered with articles deposited which it was difficult in many instances to trace.

The above provision of the law has now been amended to the effect that "it shall be lawful" for the Registrar to apply for orders concerning the disposal of such deposits, also, "when three years have elapsed from the day on which such deposits may have been made."

Ordinance No. XIV. regulates the conditions under which it is permitted to establish, in Malta, carrier pigeon lofts, an enactment considered necessary in the interests of the military defence of these Islands.

Ordinance No. XV. makes provisions for the prevention of damages on and about gun, rifle, or torpedo ranges in Malta. The provisions of this law are generally based on the Artillery and Rifle Range Act, 1885.

Ordinance No. XVI. was passed for the object (1) of preventing and punishing outrages by explosive substances, and (2) for punishing and preventing damages to the electric light machinery or cables, and to the conduits, or any part of the public drainage, such outrages not having been previously contemplated in the criminal laws.

Another important Act affecting these Islands is the "Malta Revenue and General Purposes Order in Council, 1901," by which taxation was authorized, for a period of 13 years, on beer, petroleum, sugar, and tobacco, and existing taxes and duties were revised, for the object of providing the necessary funds to carry out urgent works for water supply, drainage,

school accommodation, and for other needs of the Island which could not previously be defrayed out of the actual revenue. The estimated annual yield of the additional taxation is £38,130.

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1901.

The sums reserved under the Order are £35,000 for schools, £300,000 for drainage, £20,000 for water works, £5,000 for the improvement of the Central Civil Hospital, £8,000 for a hospital for female lepers, £2,500 for a ward for criminal lunatics, and £10,000 for roads. The Governor is empowered by the same Order in Council to issue warrants, not exceeding £9,000 in any one financial year, for expenditure, not otherwise provided for, in respect of services that may be sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

EDUCATION.

The Education Department administered by the Government consists of two branches:—

- (a.) That which comprises a University, a lyceum, two secondary schools, and a technical school; and
- (b.) The elementary schools, consisting of 111 day schools, 35 night schools, and a training school for the instruction of monitors and assistant teachers.

There are, besides, private educational enterprises, including six colleges for boys and young men, and four schools for girls, in which a good secondary education is given; there are 14 institutions in which the standard of instruction approximates to that of the Government elementary schools; and 103 other small schools kept by private individuals. The above colleges and schools are attended by 3,906 pupils, of whom 2,004 are boys and 1,902 girls.

The University comprises four Faculties:—

(I.) Of literature and science, which includes—

- (a.) An academical course of literature.
- (b.) An academical course of science.
- (c.) A course preparatory to the faculties of medicine, law, and theology.

(II.) Of medicine and surgery.

(III.) Of law.

(IV.) Of theology.

The course of literature and science extends over three years, that of each of the other faculties over four years.

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1901.

The year 1901 brought the quadrennial (1897-1901) academical course of the faculties of medicine, law, and theology to a close. The degree of M.D. was conferred upon thirteen students, that of LL.D. upon seven students, and that of D.D. upon one student. The degrees of M.A. and B.A. were conferred upon six and five students respectively.

In future, in addition to the degrees of M.D., LL.D., and D.D., the degrees conferred by the University will include, in conformity with the Statute of 1898, B.Lit. (Bachelor of Literature), B.Sc. (Bachelor of Science), D.Lit. (Doctor of Literature), and D.Sc. (Doctor of Science).

The attendance at the University in 1901 was 116, or an increase of 39 above that of the previous year.

A matriculation examination for admission to the faculty of literature and science is held annually. In 1901, 27 candidates were successful.

The Lyceum comprises two sections. In one, instruction of a higher grade is imparted, the other section is preparatory to the former. The syllabus of each section provides for a three years' course. The higher section has a classical and modern side. The classical side is preparatory to the faculty of literature and science in the University; the modern side is preparatory for admission to the civil service, the army, the navy, a commercial career, teaching, mechanical engineering, civil engineering and architecture, and navigation.

In 1901, the Lyceum was attended by 443 students, or an increase of nine on the attendance of 1900.

An examination for admission to this institution is held once a year.

Of the secondary schools, one is for young ladies, and is in Valletta. In this school pupils are admitted at any time, and receive a good general modern education, and are prepared for the Oxford local examination. The full course extends over six years.

The attendance in 1901 was 140, or 20 more than in the previous year. The attendance in this school has steadily increased since 1898, and considerable progress has been made in the working of the school during the same period.

The other secondary school, which is at Victoria, Gozo, is for boys, and the course extends over four years, admission examinations being held biennially.

The attendance for the year under review was 25.

The technical and manual school is attended by young apprentices, who receive instruction in drawing, modelling in clay, plaster casting, stucco work, cabinet making, wood and stone-carving. It was attended by twelve pupils in 1901.

The expenditure incurred in 1901 in respect of the above institutions, including the Education Office, but exclusive of minor works and repairs in the buildings, was as follows:—

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1901.

Education Office	£1,033	16	6
University	3,826	14	10
Lyceum	2,629	15	5
Secondary Schools	687	5	10
Technical and Manual School	213	6	4
Messengers, establishment, stationery, and transport	232	7	5
Total	£8,623	6	4

Calculated on the above expenditure, and on the attendance, the cost of each student was £11 14s. 3d.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The elementary schools in Malta and Gozo maintained by the Government consist of 111 day and 35 night schools, and are distributed as follows:—

Boys—Model 1; elementary, in Malta 28, in Gozo 9	38
Boys—Drawing, day 5, evening 4	9
Night—Elementary, in Malta 26, in Gozo 5	31
Girls—Model 1; elementary, in Malta 31, in Gozo 5	40
Girls—Infant, in Malta 4, in Gozo 2	6
Mixed—Infant	14
Girls—Drawing, in Malta	4
Wood-carving and modelling	3
Sunday—(Secular instruction)	1
	146

At the beginning of the scholastic year, 1900-1, the number of children on the registers of the above schools was 15,789, of which the average annual enrolment was 14,312, the attendance being 11,685, or 81·6 per cent. on the average enrolment

The attendance in the day schools is reported to have been 10,996, corresponding to 83·5 per cent. on the annual average enrolment of 13,162, against 10,470 in the previous year, with a percentage of attendance of 80·6.

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The attendance in the night schools was 689, being a percentage of 59·9 on the average annual enrolment of 1,150.

The number of children who left the schools during the year was 5,144, and 5,682 were admitted during the same period.

The number of children examined during the year was 11,304, of whom 9,854, or 87·1 per cent., passed, with an average percentage of 74·8 of marks. The results were generally satisfactory, the slight decrease in the percentage of passes, as compared with that of the previous year, being due to the greater difficulty of the arithmetic tests under the revised scheme of instruction now carried out in its entirety.

The value of the improvement of the instruction received in the elementary schools is shown by the fact that out of 39 boys belonging to those schools who went up for the Lyceum examinations, 25, or 64·1 per cent., passed; of these, 2 were placed in the IV., 10 in the V., and 13 in the VI. (lowest) classes of the Lyceum. The total number of boys who passed into the Lyceum was 81 out of 147 candidates; the percentage of passes from the elementary schools was, therefore, 30·9.

The boys from the elementary schools have also generally been very successful at the dockyard examinations for apprentices, 17 of them having been admitted this year; 5 others were employed as apprentices in public gardens, and 20 passed into the Bishop's seminary after undergoing the prescribed examination.

Although additional accommodation has been found for about 2,000 children in the course of the scholastic year, owing to the recent extensions of some of the schools and the hiring of new premises, there are still 4,313 on the books seeking admission, against 5,700 in the previous year. It is evident, therefore, that further exertions are required to provide for the demand. The Government have done all in their power to meet this urgent necessity of school accommodation, by their proposing in the Council of Government to build school premises at Crendi, Gargur, Chircop, Zeitun, Guida, and Naxaro, and to extend, or otherwise improve, the present school at Hamrun and Valletta, but such like proposals have been systematically opposed by the Elected Members.

The total cost of the elementary schools in 1901 was £17,940 12s. 3d., of which £14,842 9s. 1d. was "personal emoluments," and £3,098 3s. 2d. "other charges," exclusive of minor works and other expenses, in connection with the extension and up-keep of school premises. The average cost of each pupil on the roll was, therefore, £1 2s. 9d., but, if calculated on the annual average enrolment it amounted to £1 5s. 1d., and on the average attendance, to £1 10s. 8d., against £1 6s. 1d. in 1900.

The above expenditure shows an increase of £2,952 7s. 5d. over that in 1900. The increase is mainly due to the revised scheme of classification of the teaching staff, which provided

for the placing of first-class assistant teachers on the fixed establishment, the abolition of result fees, and for an allowance to certain teachers for teaching gymnastics. Attendance at the training school is made compulsory by the new regulations, and has so far borne good results, although the school itself requires development and expansion in regard to the instruction therein imparted.

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1901.

The practice of sending male and female assistant teachers, after proper preparation in the local training school, to go through a course of two years' training at a college in England to qualify as head teachers in our schools is being continued with satisfactory results. The four male teachers sent to Hammer-smith in 1900 have, in fact, obtained very creditable reports, especially one, who took three first-classes in the Science and Art Examination, and passed very well in the second division of the II. Class of the Certificate Examination. This is the more creditable in view of the fact that Maltese students have, for the first time, been grouped with the English ones, and no exception was made for our students in the classification of the certificate results, as heretofore.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the total expenditure in respect of education in these Islands amounted in 1901 to £26,563 18s. 7d., or more than one-fourteenth of the revenue, and about one-fifteenth of the total expenditure for the same year.

An addition to the staff of inspectors is required to raise the standard of efficiency in the schools at a distance from Valletta.

Considerable progress was made in 1901 with the preparation by the Government of a Standard English-Maltese Dictionary, and the following scholastic publications were issued from the Government printing office, viz:—

Bidu Tal Kari Malti (Maltese Primer), in 1898.

It-Tieni Ctieb tal Kari Malti (Second Book), with a literary English translation, in 1899.

A Short History of Malta, in 1899.

Outlines of English Grammar, in 1901.

Taghlim fuk Id-Dinja (Earth Knowledge), in 1901.

A Catechism of Christian Doctrine, in English and Maltese, in 1901.

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1901.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS, AND POOR HOUSES.

The charitable institutions in Malta and Gozo, which are wholly maintained by the Government, are:—

In Malta.—The Central and Seamen's Hospitals at Floriana; Santo Spirito Hospital at Notabile; Manoel Hospital at the Quarantine Harbour; the Lunatic Asylum near Casal Attard; the Orphan Asylum in Valletta; the Poor House, which has also accommodation for penitent women and for foundlings; and an asylum for male lepers.

In Gozo.—A hospital for ordinary diseases at Victoria; a hospital for infectious diseases near Xeuchia, and an asylum for aged and incurables at Victoria.

There are, besides, Government dispensaries, in both Islands, in charge of District Medical Officers, who give medical assistance and dispense medicines to the poor, both at the dispensaries and at the patients' dwellings, and a "Monte di Pietà," or Government pawning establishment in each Island.

Other branches of public charity are:—

The distribution of out-door relief to persons who are not suitable objects for admission to the institutions; the grant of monthly subsidies for the nursing of foundlings and other infants; gratuitous assistance to midwives in cases when the patients and their relatives cannot pay for that service; the burial of paupers; and the supervision of such private charitable institutions as are directly or indirectly subsidized by the Government.

The foregoing institutions have, in the course of 1901, afforded medical and surgical treatment and maintenance to 5,636 persons in Malta and 759 in Gozo. The District Medical Officers have, besides, attended, in both Islands, 103,291 cases of disease or injury at the several dispensaries in the towns and villages, and at the patients' dwellings, 4,130 vaccinations were performed by the same officers; 2,502 persons received pecuniary assistance in monthly doles, and in "immediate relief" granted in special cases of distress; 125 foundlings and other children were kept at nurse; and gratuitous assistance of a midwife was granted in 128 cases since July, 1901, when that service first began; and 814 burials of paupers were paid for by the Government.

The poor of these Islands were further assisted by having small sums of money advanced to them at a low rate of interest (5 per cent.) by the Monte di Pietà on production of pledges, consisting in gold and silver articles and draperies of all sorts.

The following tables show the principal statistics relative to hospitals, asylums, and poor houses in the year under report:—

MALTA,
1901

Hospitals.

—	In Hospital on 1st January 1901.	Admitted during the Year.	Daily Average.	Patients Discharged.	No. of Deaths.
Central Hospital	142	2,304	156	2,056	227
Seamen's Hospital	5	55	4	52	2
Santo Spirito Hospital ...	66	420	71	366	53
Manoel Hospital	15	118	5	103	26
Gozo Hospital	31	440	33	372	64
Do. for Contagious Diseases.	—	87	5	75	12
Total	259	3,424	274	3,024	384

Asylums.

—	Inmates remaining on 31st December, 1900.	Admitted during 1901.	Daily Average.	Discharged.	No. of Deaths.
Asylum for the Aged and Infirm :—					
1. Aged and Infirm ...	724	192	692	23	159
2. Incurables	189	35	182	9	30
3. Lepers	79	8	73	5	11
Lunatic Asylum	697	107	659	80	56
Orphan Asylum	97	7	95	10	—
Ospizio-Gozo	147	33	148	2	26
Total	1,933	382	1,849	129	282

The total expenditure for the maintenance of the above charities in 1901 amounted to £57,004, or more than one-seventh of the total expenditure of the Island.

The receipts of the Department of Charitable Institutions, in 1901, amounted to £8,229 3s. 8½d.

MALTA,
1901.
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A large proportion of the amount collected for the treatment of patients in hospitals consists of fees received for the keeping of patients in the lunatic asylum. There being no private institution in Malta where persons suffering from mental disease can be admitted the Government lunatic asylum has necessarily to be resorted to, even in the case of patients who are not poor, and who are, therefore, required to refund the cost, according to their means. Hence the large number of inmates in that institution.

The new works carried out were the construction of the extension of the lunatic asylum, at a cost of £582; completing the installation of electric light in the Central Hospital, £105; and laying the foundation of a chapel in the poor house, £514.

Besides the works of some magnitude, which have for some time been brought to notice, namely, the building of an asylum for female lepers, a separate wing for criminal patients in the lunatic asylum, further extension of the same institution, two additional wards in the male division of the poor house; continuation of the building of the chapel in the poor house, the building of a new general hospital, there are several structural and other improvements urgently required in the charitable institutions, which involve a comparatively smaller amount of expenditure, and which it would be very desirable to carry out in order to render the institutions better fit for the object for which they are intended, in accordance with recognized modern principles of sanitation and management. The execution of those works, however, had to be deferred for financial considerations.

In the Central Hospital a pathologist was appointed, and a chemical and bacteriological laboratory was fitted up and supplied with modern appliances, a measure which has proved to be most beneficial, both in the interest of the patients under treatment and of scientific training. The Leper Asylum had its establishment increased by the appointment of a Chief Attendant and of three other attendants, an addition which was found to be absolutely necessary, owing to the large amount of labour caused by the nature of the disease with which those patients are afflicted, and also with a view to maintain order and discipline among the inmates, some of whom proved to be disorderly. Such conduct on the part of the inmates has required the assistance of the police, which had been called in the year before. The lepers are, notwithstanding, treated with every possible consideration and indulgence. Their food is liberal, means are provided for their recreation, and an annual grant of £45 was authorized to be distributed in small monthly allowances to such of the patients who volunteer to perform household or other light work in the institution. But, so far, these inducements have not been generally appreciated. The relatives of lepers dependent upon them are, moreover, assisted by monthly subsidies in cases when it is found that relief is required. The annual grant of £100 has been authorized for that object.

The private institutions which are assisted by the Government are:—

MALTA,
1901.

1. The "Casa di S. Giuseppe," which receives a subsidy of £120 per annum. The average number of boys maintained in the institution, in 1901, was 37.

2. The Convent of the Good Shepherd, kept by the Sisters known by that designation, receives an annual subsidy of £60.

3. The other institution, which is somewhat assisted by the Government by being allowed the use of a house at a reduced rent, is the "Crèche," conducted by the Ursoline Sisters.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The deposits during the year 1901 amounted to £120,109 7s. 1d., and the withdrawals to £117,229 0s. 2½d., making an excess of deposits over withdrawals of £2,880 6s. 10½d. The number of depositors rose to 7,177 from 6,960 in the previous year, and the total amount of deposits, on the 31st December, stood at £546,492 10s. 9d., against £535,571 10s. 9d. in 1900.

Out of the above deposits, £529,000 was the amount of invested funds, the interest from which, together with the proceeds of the sale of pass-books and the unappropriated interest on deposits, produced a revenue of £13,780 9s. 11d., which left, after deducting the expenses of management and interest on deposits, a net profit of £4,723 12s. 11d. on the year's transactions, against £5,254 0s. 1d. in 1900.

The table below shows the synopsis of the transactions of the banks during the last five years, from which it will be seen that, whilst the deposits and withdrawals have varied since 1897, the number of depositors and the amount of their credit at the close of each year were continually on the increase:—

Year.	Number of depositors at 31st December.	Amount deposited.	Amount of withdrawals	Total amount to credit of depositors at 31st December.
1897	6,614	£ 113,963	£ 105,088	£ 514,878
1898	6,657	99,113	102,606	519,038
1899	6,750	105,195	109,797	522,148
1900	6,960	115,157	109,492	535,571
1901	7,177	120,109	117,229	546,492

12039

C 2

**MALTA,
1901.**

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The strength of the Malta police force consists of one superintendent, 31 officers, 107 subordinate officers, and 570 constables.

It is divided into two branches—the interior and the marine branch.

The interior branch is composed of the superintendent, 1 senior assistant superintendent, 5 assistant superintendents, 15 inspectors, 10 sub-inspectors, 6 first-class sergeants, 65 sergeants, and 334 constables; and the marine branch of 1 senior assistant superintendent, 2 assistant superintendents, 7 inspectors, 4 sub-inspectors, 4 first-class sergeants, 18 sergeants, and 236 constables.

Recruiting nearly ceased during 1901, while many serviceable men took their discharge for better situations at the dockyard and elsewhere.

The pay of the subordinate officers and men has now been increased by 4*d.* a day, and recruits of good physique, with a knowledge of English, are presenting themselves in sufficient number.

The criminal statistics for the year show a marked increase in the number of offences, though serious crime against person or property is rare.

In the country districts, where dwelling places and rural buildings are left wholly unprotected, occasional pilfering takes place.

The number of offences reported to the police during the year was 10,436, an increase of 4,157 over the number reported in 1900. Of the above, 835 were against the person, 19 against the good order of families, 579 offences against property, and 9,003 other offences.

The increase in the total number of offences is due to the enforcement of several new laws, and principally of the new vehicle and vehicular traffic Ordinance, of bye-laws to regulate the market, prostitutes, mendicants, scavengers, &c., which give rise to numerous proceedings in the Police Court for contraventions. The number of offences in 1900, exclusive of crimes against the person and property, was 5,020, as against 9,003 in 1901. The difference consequently is principally due to contraventions attributable to new Ordinances and to increased vigilance in the enforcement of the law in general.

The number of persons brought before the Magistrates' Court by arrest, warrant, or summons, for offences, was 11,536, as compared with 9,810 in the previous year. Of these, 10,556 were summarily convicted, 188 committed for trial in the

Superior Courts, and 792 were discharged on the cases against them falling through for want of prosecution.

MALTA,
1901.

The summary convictions were for the following offences:—

Against the person	... ..	904
Against the good order of families	... ..	18
Against property	... ..	607
For other offences	... ..	9,027

In the Superior Courts the number of persons committed for trial was 188, of whom 56 were acquitted, and 132 were convicted of various offences, viz., 1 for manslaughter, 3 for attempt at murder, 1 child murder, 1 concealment of birth, 53 other offences against the person, 1 for malicious injury to property, 3 robbery with violence, 28 other offences against property, 17 offences against the good order of families, 4 false evidence, and 20 for miscellaneous offences.

It will be seen that, in regard to serious crime, the above compares favourably with the previous year, when there were four convictions out of seven cases for murder.

PRISONS.

There are three prisons in the Colony: (a) at Corradino Hill, (b) in Valletta, attached to the Police Department, and (c) in Gozo.

The Corradino Prison is on the mixed cellular system, as regards criminal wards, and it has 254 separate cells and 6 wards; the Valletta Prison, which has only 6 available cells, is not on a separate system, and no effectual separation can, as a rule, be enforced, in consequence of the premises being defective, and not suitable for reconstruction. They are intended for the temporary detention (a) of prisoners sentenced during the day until their removal to the Corradino Prison in the afternoon, (b) of those arrested late in the evening or by night, and (c) of prisoners escorted from the Corradino Prison early in the morning to stand their trial. It is advisable that the Courts of Justice, with suitable prisons, should be reconstructed on suitable plans, and in a central but more quiet part of Valletta.

The Gozo Prison has four cells and three wards, two of which have exercise yards attached.

The total number of persons committed to prison in 1901 was 5,036, of whom 4,040 were men, 228 women, and 768 juveniles, as against 4,685 men, 344 women, and 1,010 juveniles in the previous year. Of these, 5 were committed for debt, 2,498 for safe custody pending trial or for want of bail, and 2,533 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

2,905 were committed for the first time, 860 for the second, and 1,113 had been convicted more than three times.

MALTA,
1901.

The number of persons committed to penal imprisonment, including hard labour, was as follows:—

5 for five years or more.

37 for one year or more.

79 for more than three months and less than one year.

4,787 for three months or less.

The daily average in the prisons was 241, as against 246 in 1900. The health of the prison was good, the daily average on the sick list having been four, two were treated in the hospital: only one death, from old age, occurred during the year.

The punishments inflicted were:—

Solitary confinement on bread and water ...	...	41
Dark cell on bread and water ...	...	1
Reduction from class ...	...	23
Admonished ...	...	65
Total ...	...	130

The earnings of prisoners from industrial and remunerative work amounted to £980. The labour is applied in building, stone-cutting, carpentering, glazing, shoe-making, painting, white-washing, tailoring, basket, mat, and broom-making, gardening, and in field labour.

The total cost of the prisons in 1901 was £4,634 19s. 6d., of which £1,710 4s. 6d. was "personal emoluments," and £2,924 15s. "other charges." Of the above, £251, expended in the maintenance of consular, naval, and military prisoners, were recouped, leaving £4,113 19s. 6d. as the net expenditure of the prisons for the year.

Religious services are regularly performed for the benefit of the prisoners by a Roman Catholic chaplain, and by visiting chaplains for members of the Church of England, Presbyterians, and Wesleyans.

Steps have been taken to construct a ward for prisoners suffering from contagious diseases.

LIFE STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population of these Islands for 1901 is estimated at 188,141, or an increase of 4,462 on the estimated population of 1900. This estimate is calculated by the excess of births over deaths, and of arrivals over departures since 31st March, 1901, on which date the Census of the whole population was taken.

The civil population on Census day was returned as 184,742 (91,994 males and 92,748 females).

MALTA,
1901.

The increase of population, therefore, from 31st March to 31st December, 1901, has been 3,399, from which, however, should be deducted 1,650 persons belonging to military families, leaving, therefore, a net increase of the civil population of 1,749.

The number of births registered during the year was 7,140. This is equal to a general birth-rate of 38 per 1,000, which is the same rate of the previous year.

The deaths recorded numbered 4,677, or 24·86 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 27·51 in 1900.

The number of marriages was 1,226, or 57 more than in 1900.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general state of the public health was good. The percentage of deaths under five years to total deaths is 49·93. There were 291 deaths from zymotic diseases, or 6·1 per cent. to total deaths.

The death-rate in the urban zone (the fortified towns), which is drained, was, for the year, 24·75. The death-rate for the suburban undrained zone was 26·43, and that for the rural area was 24·27.

SANITATION.

From September, diphtheria prevailed in an epidemic form in both Islands. 92 cases were reported in Malta and 80 in Gozo. The mortality in Malta was 50 per cent., whilst in Gozo only six cases out of 80 ended fatally. This result is attributed to the use of the "anti-diphtheric serum."

Thirteen cases of small-pox occurred during the year, besides seven cases landed from ships.

There has likewise been an epidemic of anthrax among cattle. 49 carcasses of dead animals were diagnosed as cases of anthrax.

CLIMATE.

The total rainfall for the year was 24·828 inches.

The following meteorological return for 1901 shows the prevailing temperature for each month of the year, the rainfall, and general direction of wind:—

MALTA,
1901.

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.		Remarks.	
	Solar maxi- mum.	Mini- mum on grass.	Shade maxi- mum.	Shade mini- mum.	Range (mean daily).	Mean	Amount in inches.	Degree of humidity.	General Direction.		Average Force.
January ...	114·3°	35·4	62·9	39·5	9·5	52·9	5·386	80	N.E. & S.W.	·83205	
February ...	122·3°	36·2	67·2	40·3	11·9	53·7	3·676	80	S.E. & N.W.	·60500	
March ...	129·5°	39·9	71·5	45·2	13·3	56·8	0·812	80	S. & S.W.	·63845	
April ...	136·8°	45·6	87·7	50·4	13·5	60·6	0·095	76	E. & N.W.	·57245	
May ...	139·4°	46·0	77·8	50·6	14·0	62·8	1·544	78	N. & N.W.	·46080	
June ...	140·0°	56·2	91·8	60·5	16·4	72·2	0·210	70	N.W. & W.N.W.	·37845	
July ...	162·9	60·3	103·0	64·3	18·2	79·6	0·0	64	N.W. & E.	·15125	
August ...	148·7	62·5	93·8	64·4	15·3	77·5	0·156	73	W.N.W. & N.W.	·33620	
September ...	149·6	56·5*	90·3	60·7	15·5	75·6	0·190	75	E. & S.E.	·36980	
October ...	140·9	48·1	83·5	52·2	16·0	68·1	5·666	81	W. & S.E.	·36125	
November ...	125·2	40·9	76·6	46·5	14·5	61·0	4·157	79	W. & S.E.	·45125	
December ...	119·8	36·9	67·7	40·3	11·7	56·9	1·936	77	W. & S.E.	·72000	

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE
SERVICES.MALTA.
1901.

A.—POST OFFICE.

The general results of the Post Office Department in 1901 are very satisfactory, from a business, as well as from a financial point of view. The receipts, in fact, amounted to £17,156 13s. 3d., and the expenditure being £14,673 13s. 10d., a net profit of £2,482 19s. 5d. has been realized on the postal transactions. This is due partly to a decrease in the expenditure as compared with that of 1900, but chiefly to the recovery from the effects of the adoption of the penny postage in 1899. All classes, in fact, of mail matter dealt with during the year under review show an increase, which is greatest in the case of postcards, principally due, as already explained in previous reports, to the ever-increasing exchange of illustrated private postcards (11·66 per cent. over that of 1900) now forming another subject for the attention of collectors.

The transactions of the parcel post during the year also exceeded by 6·95 per cent. those of the preceding year, the total number of parcels received and despatched having been 62,739, as against 58,663 in 1900.

It is also gratifying to note the important increase in the revenue of £1,936 14s. 11d. over the receipts of the previous year.

The following comparative statements show the revenue and cost of the Post Office and the mail matter dealt with in 1901, as compared with those of 1900:—

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
1900.	1901.	Increase.	1900.	1901.	Decrease.
£ s. d. 15,219 18 4	£ s. d. 17,156 13 3	£ s. d. 1,936 14 11	£ s. d. 14,730 1 1	£ s. d. 14,673 13 10	£ s. d. 56 7 3

PARTICULARS OF MAIL MATTER.

Articles.	Received and Despatched.		Increase (+) or Decrease (—) per cent.
	1900.	1901.	
Letters ...	3,441,237	3,575,013	+ 3·89
Post Cards...	195,637	218,452	+ 11·66
Printed Matter ...	2,023,600	2,054,689	+ 1·54
Parcel Post ...	58,663	62,739	+ 6·95
Totals ...	5,719,137	5,910,893	—

MALTA,
1901.

B.—TELEGRAPHS.

The inland telegraph system in the Island is the property of the military authorities. The foreign cables belong entirely to the Eastern Telegraph Company.

Proposals have been made to connect Malta with Sicily by wireless telegraphy.

C.—TELEPHONES.

The Governor's Palaces, all Government Departments, Charitable Institutions, and Police Stations are connected by a telephone service, conducted by private enterprise; the mileage is 439½.

The Railway Department has a separate line connecting all the stations, and the Island of Gozo can be communicated with from the Auberge de Castille through the military telephone and signal system.

It appears advisable that the facilities for switching on from one system to the other should be developed, and that the Government should extend its own lines as rapidly as possible and adopt the military standard of efficiency in the lines and plant in use.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

A.—REGULAR FORCES.

The expenditure for the up-keep of the Regular Forces in this command, including the Royal Malta Artillery, is borne by the Imperial Government, and, in 1901, it amounted to £637,318 19s. 4d. The only contribution paid by this Island towards military defence is that fixed by Letters Patent of 1887, viz., £5,000.

B.—MILITIA.

The militia, which is regulated by Ordinance No. 5 of 1901 (which consolidates the previous Ordinances on the subject), is composed of two battalions of infantry and one company Royal Engineers' submarine miners, forming an establishment of 1,131 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, each infantry battalion, and 62 non-commissioned officers and men, Royal Engineers' submarine miners.

This force is liable to be called out for 72 days' drill during the year, out of which 12 days in camp for the Royal Malta Regiment, and 120 days' training for the Royal Engineers' submarine miners, of whom 18 men are permanently employed.

MALTA,
1901.

The expenditure incurred in 1901 for the support of the force was £15,809 1s., of which £9,791 8s. 8d. for pay, &c., Royal Malta Regiment; £4,530 13s. 4d. for pay, &c., Royal Malta Regiment permanent staff; £1,269 6s. 10d. for pay, &c., Royal Engineers' submarine miners, and £218 3s. 9d. for staff of the same.

C.—VOLUNTEERS.

(None.)

D.—CONSTABULARY.

(None.)

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year 1901 may be considered to have been prosperous, especially for the working classes, who form the bulk of this community. Owing to important works undertaken by the Local Government for the extension of the drainage and for the increase of the water supply; by the military authorities in connection with the scheme of defence, such as the opening of new roads and the erection of additional barrack accommodation; and by the naval authorities for the construction of two large docks in the French Creek,—the demand for labour was in excess of the supply, hence wages rose. Compared with five years ago, an ordinary labourer can at present earn from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d., against 1s. 6d. to 2s. 2d. in 1897, and skilled labour commands from 3s. to 4s. 6d. a day, against 3s. to 3s. 4d., whilst fitters' wages range between 4s. and 5s. 6d., against 3s. 6d. to 5s. in 1897. This increase in the value of labour has caused a change in the economic conditions of the thrifty workmen of Malta, whose life is evidently easy and contented. The effect of this prosperity is noticed not only in the statistics of the Savings Bank, in which the yearly deposits have risen from £99,113 in 1897 to £120,109 in 1901, but also in the increase of marriages, in the large excess of births over deaths, and in the visible signs of comfort and cheerfulness observed in this class of the population.

MALTA,
1901.

The total expenditure incurred by the Government of Malta in public works, in the year under review, amounted to £101,849, of which £53,328 was for annually recurrent works, and £48,521 for works of an extraordinary nature. Among the latter, the most important are the following:—

	£
1. New drainage works	24,423
2. Do. (flushing drains by sea water)	4,833
3. Towards improving drainage works ...	1,997
4. Remodelling and constructing roads, streets, and moles, and up-keep of the same ...	26,051
5. Water-works	4,770
6. Renewing roof of the Palace armoury ...	2,414
7. Towards erection of a school at Sliema (cost of site)	2,500
8. Towards the construction of an electric light workshop	580
9. Improving buildings of the charitable institutions	2,757
10. Improving public buildings, palaces, offices, stores, and gardens	12,808
11. Improving property yielding rent	4,534

RAILWAY.

The railway, which is administered by Government officials, continues to do its useful work without being a burden on the public revenue, all improvements on the same and all renewals being defrayed out of the profits realized after deducting interest on capital and working expenses.

The gross earnings for the year amounted to £8,226 10s. 1½d., as compared with £7,735 9s. 7½d. in 1900, an increase of £491 9s. 6½d.; and the working expenses having been £5,922 12s. 5d., against £6,159 8s. 3d., a profit of £2,304 6s. 8½d. was left, as against £1,576 1s. 4½d. in 1900.

The above profits were disposed of as follows:—

Interest on capital expended	£1,118	3	1
Fitting carriages and locomotives with flexible buffers	498	13	10
Providing copper firebox and brass tubes for locomotives	129	14	8
Fitting engine No. 5 with a four-wheeled bogie	389	12	11

The technical school attached to the Railway Department has also been enlarged to afford further accommodation for the

admission of additional apprentices, and more room for locomotive repairs. The number of apprentices trained in the school was 23 during the year, of whom four were employed in His Majesty's Dockyard and one on His Majesty's Hospital Ship "Maine."

MALTA,
1900.

Out of the profits of the railway, the following improvements are to be gradually effected as the funds will permit, viz., additional accommodation at the Attard and Birchircara Stations; heavier rails relaid on a portion of the line each year; level crossings bridged over, or under, and the addition of another locomotive engine and more carriages.

The following statement shows the progress of the railway since the year in which it was restarted as a Government concern on co-operative principles:—

—	1893.			1900.			1901		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Capital expended for the equipment of the railway.	14,653	8	8	39,213	19	9	39,363	17	0
2. Gross revenue ...	4,859	9	1	7,735	9	7½	8,226	19	1½
3. Working expenses ...	3,862	18	1	6,159	8	3	5,922	12	5
4. Profit on working ...	966	11	0	1,576	1	4½	2,304	6	8½
5. Number of passengers...	626,912			1,081,471			810,263		

The principal events of political importance in 1901, as testifying to the loyalty and attachment of this community to the Throne of England, are those connected with the lamented death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the accession of His Majesty the King, and with the visit to these Islands of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York.

The sad news of Her Majesty's death, though not unexpected after the announcement of her serious illness, was a shock to this loyal population, who associated her personality with every idea of power, justice, and humanity. On that melancholy occasion deep sympathy was expressed with His Majesty and the Royal Family by the Civil, Naval, Military, and Ecclesiastical Authorities, and by all the constituted bodies in the Island, in the name of the population.

The ceremony of proclaiming His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII. Liege Lord and Sovereign in and over the Island of Malta and its dependencies took place on the 28th January, 1901. The Proclamation was published at the Palace in

MALTA,
1901.

Valletta before a select assemblage, and was signed by His Excellency the Governor, His Grace the Archbishop Bishop of Malta, Rear Admiral Sir John Arbuthnot Fisher, K.C.B., Lord Congleton, C.B., Chief Justice Sir Joseph Carbone, K.C.M.G., Sir Gerald Strickland, K.C.M.G., Chief Secretary to Government, Dr. Fortunato Mizzi, representing the Elected Members, Baron Ugo Testaferrata Abela, representing the Maltese Nobility, Dr. Giovanni Messina, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and Dr. Oreste Grech Mifsud, President of the Chamber of Advocates.

The visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York to these Islands offered another occasion to this population for showing that they are not behind any others in His Majesty's Dominions in sharing, together with the trials, the joys and triumphs of the Motherland. Their Royal Highnesses arrived here on the 25th of March, and were greeted by all classes of the community with a hearty welcome to these shores, due honour and homage was paid to them, and, through them, loyal fidelity and sincere devotion was expressed to the Throne, during their short but eventful visit.

With reference to Colonial Regulations, Nos. 283 and 284, His Excellency the Governor has now given instructions for the compilation and printing of a satisfactory inventory of the Palace furniture to include the Palace Armoury. It is hoped that publicity will be a lasting protection against the future loss of any of its contents. Owing to the renewal of the roof of the Palace Armoury, the collection of arms and armour had to be temporarily shifted elsewhere, pending the carrying out of this work.

In the financial year under review, orders were, by the Imperial Authorities, given to commence the construction of a breakwater on the Monarch shoal, which had been suggested in the Council of Government as far back as the 24th November, 1897.

An opinion is gaining ground that the climate of Malta has somewhat changed for the better, that the hot weather begins later and ends earlier, and that rain falls at periods of the year which used to be drier. This may be due to the Government having adopted the policy of systematically planting a number of trees every year.

The investment of capital by the local population in building small houses, flats, residences, and villas, still continues.

The standard of comfort of the people is being rapidly raised owing to greater contact with British subjects from other parts of the Empire, promoted by the great increase of the fleet and garrison. The imperial forces returned in the Census were

22,088. The presence of the garrison regiments with grown-up families, and the opportunities now enjoyed by non-commissioned officers, petty officers, and even by stokers in the navy to bring their families out to Malta, are producing social conditions under which Malta is ceasing to be merely a dependency, and becoming a Colony in a more proper sense of the word.

MALTA,
1901.
—

I have, &c.,

G. STRICKLAND,
Chief Secretary to Government.

His Excellency

Sir F. W. Grenfell, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.,

Governor of Malta,

&c., &c., &c.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 335.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 302.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1901.



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1901

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
314	Hong Kong	1899
315	Southern Nigeria... ..	1899-1900
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899-1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island... ..	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899-1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados	"
327	Bahamas	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia	"
333	Seychelles	"
334	Falkland Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Report on Operations in New Territory during 1900.

No. 335.

MAURITIUS
AND
RODRIGUES,
1900.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 302.)

GOVERNOR SIR CHAS. BRUCE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Mauritius,
August 19th, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1900, together with the usual Report of the Colonial Secretary, Sir Graham Bower, K.C.M.G.

2. That which is of principal local or general interest in the record of the year may be briefly summarised.

FINANCIAL.

3. The Revenue of the year amounted to Rs. 9,179,975, and the Expenditure to Rs. 8,568,943. The Revenue exceeded the Expenditure by Rs. 611,032, and exceeded the Revenue of the year 1899 by Rs. 113,661, notwithstanding that an emergency tax, in the shape of a surcharge of 10 per cent. imposed on all duties on Customs during the year 1899, ceased to be collected from the 1st January, 1900. The surplus funds of the Colony amounted on the 31st December, 1900, to Rs. 1,704,424, as compared with Rs. 1,077,715 at the close of the year 1899, and Rs. 438,866 at the close of the year 1898. This satisfactory position of the Colonial finances, administered since 1897 with rigid economy, reflected the fortunes of the sugar industry. In 1897 the export of sugar amounted to 138,080 tons, of the declared value of Rs. 22,310,483; in 1898 to 154,549 tons, of the declared value of Rs. 24,727,688; in 1899 to 164,912 tons, of the declared value of Rs. 23,044,656; and in 1900 to 174,766 tons, of the declared value of Rs. 28,836,354.

The surplus funds of the Colony are liable for a contingent charge for renewal of railway plant and rolling stock, and it has been decided to appropriate a part of the balances to harbour improvements.

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SANITATION.

4. Following on the series of adverse circumstances which a few years ago affected the Colony, and culminated, in 1898, in an acute financial crisis, from the consequences of which the Colony had hardly recovered, came a visitation of plague, which broke out early in 1899, and having attained its maximum energy in the month of October, 1899, remained nearly dormant during the months of February to July, 1900. In August, however, a fresh outbreak occurred, and continued to the end of the year. The pressure of immediate financial difficulties having been happily overcome, the visitation of plague, followed, unfortunately, by a recrudescence of malarial fever, has made the question of sanitation the first concern of the Government. During the year 1899 various tentative measures of legislation to meet emergencies provoked by the plague were enacted, and in 1900 these measures were consolidated and amended in accordance with the knowledge acquired by practical experience. The Sanitation Consolidating Ordinance, 1900, was the principal act of legislation of the year, and it is mainly to purposes of sanitation that the Government is devoting all the resources made available by the improved financial position of the Colony, so far as they can prudently be disposed of. In accordance with the recent discoveries of scientific enquiry into the agencies of the propagation of disease, particular attention is now being devoted to the measures best adapted to combat the propagation of plague by rats, and of malaria by mosquitoes.

TRADE.

5. The natural consequence of the abundant sugar crops of the last two years has been that the trade returns for 1900 show an increase in the aggregate, as compared with 1899, both in the value of exports and imports. The declared value of the produce and manufactures of the Colony exported in 1900 was Rs. 30,982,673, against a declared value of Rs. 24,440,609 in 1899. The value of imports for 1900, compared with 1899, is shown in the following table:—

Items.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	11,919,260	10,186,061	—	1,733,199
Raw material	1,011,947	787,508	—	224,439
Manufacture and miscellaneous articles.	6,165,006	7,302,791	1,137,785	—
Coin, bullion, and specie...	1,092,898	4,534,418	3,441,520	—
Total	20,189,111	22,810,778	4,579,305	1,957,638

The decreased value of imports under the head of Live Animals, Food, Drink, and Narcotics is chiefly due to a decrease of 20,895,222 kilos. of rice, of the declared value of Rs. 1,872,104, as compared with 1899. This was the consequence of the rice supply having been allowed to run very short during the last months of the year; and the imports of the current year will show a corresponding increase. The importation of live animals has been seriously affected by the diminished imports of cattle from Madagascar, hitherto our main source of supply. Arrangements for the establishment of cold storage to insure the regular supply of meat have been for some time under consideration, and will, it is hoped, be very shortly completed. The trade relations between this Colony and Madagascar and Réunion have of late been seriously disturbed. To the difficulties opposed to the trade of Mauritius by the protective policy of the Government of Madagascar, the epidemic of plague has added a fresh obstruction, and Madagascar ports are practically closed to our local produce. An outbreak of cattle plague in Réunion has reduced our imports from that Colony.

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PRISON POPULATION.

6. In the year 1898 I had occasion to inform you of the grave anxiety I entertained respecting the enormous prison population of the Colony, and especially the prisoners convicted by the Stipendiary Courts under the provisions of the labour laws. It is, therefore, with satisfaction that I extract the following figures from the prison statistics for the year:—

CONVICTED PRISONERS RECEIVED from the DIFFERENT COURTS.

Year.	Supreme Court.	District and Police Courts.	Stipendiary Courts.	Other Courts.	Total.
1896	26	4,131	2,282	64	6,503
1897	42	4,872	2,805	35	7,754
1898	50	4,843	3,069	24	7,996
1899	24	3,247	2,202	13	5,486
1900	20	3,011	1,816	48	4,895

I regret, however, to have to add that the prisons have supplied a new source of anxiety in a large increase of sickness and mortality. This is forming the subject of an exhaustive enquiry.

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POPULATION.

7. The summary results of the recent census show the population to be as follows:—

Population.	1891.	1901.
General	114,668	118,904
Indo-Mauritian ...	156,591	190,027
Other Indians ...	99,329	71,109
Total	370,588	380,040

The transition of property into the hands of the Indian population, to which I have often invited attention, is steadily progressing. During the year 1900 they acquired real property to the value of Rs. 1,980,413, including property to the value of Rs. 358,222 in the town of Port Louis and Rs. 1,622,191 in the country districts. During the quinquennial period 1896 to 1900 inclusive they acquired real property to the value of Rs. 9,084,490, including property to the value of Rs. 1,705,369 in Port Louis and Rs. 7,379,121 in the country districts. The Protector of Immigrants estimates the value of the real property acquired by Indians since the year 1864 at Rs. 24,159,945, of which amount sales to the value of Rs. 8,519,676 were registered during the period 1888 to 1894 and Rs. 10,297,509 during the period 1895 to 1900. In addition to their large investments in real property, the Indian population held deposits in the Savings Bank, at the end of the year 1900, to the amount of Rs. 1,363,708, an increase of Rs. 65,740 over the deposits held by them on the 31st of December, 1899.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. BRUCE,

Governor.

**REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR
THE YEAR 1900.**

**MAURITIUS
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I.—FINANCIAL.

The following is a Comparative Statement of the heads of Revenue for the years 1899-1900:—

Heads of Revenue.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Customs	3,465,082.58	3,399,514.96	—	65,567.62
Port, harbour, wharf, and lighthouse dues.	193,026.90	191,145.52	—	1,881.38
Licenses, excise, and in- ternal revenue not otherwise classified.	2,505,974.39	2,672,059.43	166,085.04	—
Fees of court or office, payments for specific services, and reim- bursements in aid.	202,705.32	215,276.64	12,571.32	—
Post Office and tele- graphs.	134,403.25	114,660.85	—	19,742.40
Government railways...	1,876,302.95	1,995,015.87	118,712.92	—
Rent of Government property.	56,895.46	54,769.75	—	2,125.71
Interest... ..	539,429.46	484,875.75	—	54,553.71
Miscellaneous receipts	90,165.64	51,054.77	—	39,110.87
Land sales	2,327.44	1,601.76	—	725.68
Total ...	9,066,313.39	9,179,975.30	297,369.28	183,707.37
Deduct decrease ... ..	...	...	183,707.37	...

The receipts of 1900 show an increase on 1899 of Rs. 113,661.91

The increases in the foregoing table are mainly due to increased prosperity due to a good sugar crop. The decreases are, in respect to the largest item, Customs, due to reduced taxation on imports.

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EXPENDITURE.

The following is a Comparative Statement of the Expenditure for the years 1899–1900 :—

Heads of Service.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Public debt	837,232.30	836,879.02	—	353.28
Pensions	463,872.45	459,486.47	—	4,385.98
Governor and Legislature.	70,043.45	69,327.52	—	715.93
Colonial Secretary ...	65,652.75	61,382.34	—	4,270.41
Receiver-General ...	140,325.05	135,802.88	—	4,522.17
Auditor-General ...	54,769.90	54,948.16	178.26	—
Customs	213,325.04	217,300.62	3,975.58	—
Port and marine ...	177,060.53	256,272.25	79,211.72	—
Observatory	19,450.58	19,422.07	—	28.51
Museum... ..	4,874.12	4,664.55	—	209.57
Registrar-General ...	19,291.61	19,054.57	—	237.04
Receiver of Registration Dues.	55,281.54	56,315.22	1,033.68	—
Post Office	174,413.37	134,208.67	—	40,204.70
Woods and forests ...	116,273.81	117,873.86	1,600.05	—
Judicial Departments...	469,870.64	479,463.67	9,593.03	—
Ecclesiastical	143,460.91	150,567.65	7,106.74	—
Education	478,496.26	481,653.72	3,157.46	—
Medical and Health Department.	608,969.01	652,892.46	43,923.45	—
Quarantine	615,672.09	23,517.98	—	592,154.11
Poor Law Commission	190,343.52	167,697.65	—	22,645.87
Police	544,278.67	547,919.97	3,641.30	—
Prisons	136,871.34	145,634.15	8,762.81	—
Storekeeper-General ...	32,641.00	33,901.33	1,260.33	—
Immigration	119,065.36	127,908.18	8,842.82	—
Carried forward ...	5,751,535.30	5,254,094.96	172,287.23	669,727.57

EXPENDITURE—*continued.*MAURITIUS
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Heads of Service.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward ...	5,751,535.30	5,254,094.96	172,287.23	669,727.57
Dependencies ...	41,225.54	41,279.71	54.17	—
Crown Agents ...	4,680.74	8,764.24	4,083.50	—
Writers and copyists ...	5,253.89	5,057.63	—	196.26
Transport ...	3,190.01	4,849.69	1,659.68	—
Miscellaneous ...	331,704.28	350,213.91	18,509.63	—
Charitable allowances ...	15,969.36	15,296.13	—	673.23
Interest and exchange...	185,198.07	198,712.92	13,514.85	—
Military contribution ...	388,606.91	476,298.91	87,692.00	—
Railways ...	1,254,133.69	1,385,080.27	130,946.58	—
Surveyor-General ...	57,978.22	58,707.29	729.07	—
Public works (recurrent)	249,105.48	274,335.14	25,229.66	—
ditto (extraor- dinary)	26,342.00	58,375.78	32,033.78	—
Loan Commission ...	14,337.71	15,022.68	684.97	—
Marc-aux-Vacoas Water Works.	47,936.21	44,907.10	—	3,029.11
Drainage works ...	30,029.69	28,257.67	—	1,772.02
Secret Service ...	—	10,650.00	10,650.00	—
Plague Services ...	—	339,039.88	339,039.88	—
Total ...	8,407,227.10	8,568,943.91	837,115.00	675,398.19

The main increases are due to the purchase of a new steam tug, and to the expenditure on railway material and maintenance.

The railways of the Colony, which have necessarily been starved during the years of financial distress, claimed the first attention as soon as the finances permitted the disbursement of the necessary expenditure. They cannot yet be said to be in a completely satisfactory condition, but when all outstanding incidents have been executed they will be in an efficient condition and able to deal with the increasing traffic.

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It is, unfortunately, the fact that whilst the Revenues of the Colony fluctuate with the prosperity or adversity of the Colony, the Expenditure cannot be so easily adapted to the financial resources of the moment. The charges for Debt, Pensions, Salaries, &c., are permanent, and those for Poor Law Relief actually increase in the lean years.

It must be remembered also that in Mauritius the Government undertakes many duties which in other countries are discharged by private persons or Corporations. The tendency in fact is to throw more and more responsibilities on the Government, which, whilst it has always been of the French centralised type, is steadily being pressed to undertake duties which go beyond the proper scope of the Napoleonic system and trench on the principles of collectivist socialism.

This is not the place to discuss whether this tendency is wise or unwise, whether it is or is not beneficial to the character of a people, that Municipalities, parents, and householders should shift their responsibilities on to the State. But it is at all events evident that the State cannot undertake to discharge those responsibilities unless it husbands the surpluses of good years to meet the liabilities of bad years.

Position of the Colony at the close of the year 1900.

At the close of the year 1899 the balance	
in favour of the Treasury was ...	Rs. 1,077,715
At the close of 1900 it was ...	1,704,424
Showing an increase, in 1900, of ...	<u>626,709</u>

The Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony, and the Treasury balances of the previous five years, at the close of each year, were as follows:—

Year.				Revenue.	Expenditure.	Treasury Balances.
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1895	...	...	...	8,273,622	8,488,736	1,264,403
1896	...	...	...	8,849,181	8,544,736	1,486,557
1897	...	...	...	7,996,705	8,626,798	899,336
1898	...	...	...	7,620,318	8,131,465	438,866
1899	...	...	...	9,066,314	8,406,227	1,077,715
Total	...	...	...	41,806,140	42,197,962	5,166,877
Average	8,361,228	8,439,592	1,033,375

The Revenue of 1900, compared with 1899,
shows an increase of Rs. 113,661

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The principal increases in 1900 being on Railways and Excise duties, and the principal decreases on Customs, Post Office, Telegraphs, Interest, and Miscellaneous Receipts.

The Expenditure of the year 1900 was in excess of that of 1899 by Rs. 161,710. The principal items of ordinary Expenditure affected by the increase being item 32, Military Contribution, and item 33, Railways.

The plague expenditure of the year showed a decrease of Rs. 223,373.65 as compared with that of the previous year.

In 1899 it was	...	...	...	Rs. 562,413.53
In 1900 it was	...	...	...	339,039.88
Decrease	...	...	...	<u>223,373.65</u>

From the above return, for the five years preceding 1900, it will be seen that the Revenue realized in 1900 is the largest, it is also the largest since 1882, when it was Rs. 9,551,635; this is due to the large crops realized in 1898 to 1899, and 1899 to 1900, and 1900 to 1901; the crop of 1900 to 1901 being one of the largest ever reaped in the island.

The prospects of the coming year 1901 to 1902 are favourable, owing to abundant rains having fallen in the beginning of the year. Though not so good as last crop, it is expected that, owing to the larger extent of land brought under cultivation by small peasant proprietors, which will be harvested this year, the crop will yield at least 170,000 tons, and the estimates for 1901-1902 have been based on that expectation.

TAXATION.

The principal changes introduced in the laws relating to taxation in 1900 were as follows:—

1. The Branch Roads Ordinance No. 9 of 1900, by which Ordinance a fund was created in each district, exclusive of Port Louis and townships, and placed under the administration of a District Board of Commissioners for the making, altering and repairing of branch roads.

This Ordinance provides for a local tax in each district of 10 per cent. to be levied in each year in each district, exclusive of Port Louis and townships, as an addition to the direct taxes on vehicles and animals.

This tax may, on the recommendation of the Branch Roads Boards, and with the approval of the Governor in Executive Council, be raised by additional percentages up to 25 per cent. of such direct taxes.

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2. Ordinance No. 16 of 1900, to amend Ordinance No. 29 of 1895 (Customs Tariff). The principal changes were to exempt from Customs duties bichloride of mercury and any other substance when imported for the purpose of being used in the preparation of manures, or of other Colonial produce, or as disinfectants which may, by a Proclamation of the Governor in Executive Council, be declared to be so exempted.

To remove from the list of exemptions "Bullion."

To subject to Customs dues all alcoholic preparations of any kind whatsoever imported into the Colony, excepting Eau de Cologne, other perfumed spirits, and patent pharmaceutical preparations, and pharmaceutical alcoholic preparations, under certain conditions.

3. Ordinance No. 24 of 1900, Customs Tariff Amendment Ordinance (No. 2) of 1900, removes from the list of exemptions from Customs duties, after the 31st December, 1900, articles imported for the use of His Excellency the Governor.

4. Ordinance No. 33 of 1900 (Customs Tariff Temporary Ordinance, 1900), continuing the surcharge of 10 per cent. on all Customs dues payable on goods imported into Mauritius on or before the 30th June, 1901.

5. Ordinance No. 34 of 1900, to allow the denaturation of Colonial spirits on payment of an excise duty of Rs. 4.40 per hectolitre, being the equivalent of the duty then existing on imported petroleum oil.

6. Ordinance No. 35 of 1900 (The Tobacco Rodrigues Ordinance, 1900), re-establishing the import duty of 35 c. per kilo. on tobacco imported from Rodrigues, and imposing an import duty of Rs. 2.15 per kilo. on imported manufactured tobacco having been butted or stemmed. This Ordinance will come into operation on 1st January, 1902.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The ratio of the Revenue to the population was Rs. 23.28 per head, and that of the Expenditure Rs. 22.00 per head.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt stood as follows on the 31st December, 1900:—

Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. debentures, payable by annual drawings	£45,393 10 0
Moka Railway 4 per cent. debentures, payable by annual drawings in and from 1884	600 0 0
Consolidated 4 per cent. debentures, payable by annual drawings from 1882	60,900 0 0

Mauritius Inscribed Stock, 4 per cent., under Ordinances 1 and 22 of 1887 (including the Loan for the Mare- aux-Vacoas, £3,600)	£482,390 16 0	MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.
Hurricane Loan, 1892, 3 per cent. Imperial Guaranteed Stock, under Ordinance 4 of 1892	600,000 0 0	
	<hr/> £1,189,284 6 0 <hr/>	

For the redemption of Debentures and Inscribed Stock the several sinking funds and cash balances in the hands of the Trustees amounted to £125,827 18s. 8d.

This is exclusive of the balance due by the Loan Office amounting to £346,336.

The sum to the credit of the sinking funds on the 31st December, 1900, showed an increase of £14,301 on the previous year.

CURRENCY.

Amount of currency notes on 31st December, 1900:—

Issue of 1848 and 1849 (dollars and cents)	£483 16 5
Issue of 1860 (sterling)	3,639 0 0
	<hr/> 4,122 16 5 <hr/>

Rupee notes under Ordinance 28 of 1876:—

1. In the Financial Officer's vault	Rs. 78,950
2. In the hands of the public (including the banks)	4,756,250
	<hr/> 4,835,200 <hr/>

It is desirable to point out that the foregoing statements are not presented in the form that would be used by a commercial company. The words Assets and Liabilities must be taken in their official and not their commercial sense. For the Colony possesses valuable assets such as railways, forests, public buildings, Crown lands, &c., which would properly appear as marketable Assets in the report of a commercial company but find no place in an official report of a Colony.

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MUNICIPALITIES AND BOARDS.

The only elective Municipality in Mauritius is that of Port Louis. The following is a statement of their Revenue and Expenditure for the five years 1896-1900:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1896	460,242	459,290
1897*	508,079	510,666
1898†	483,397	482,134
1899	432,998	424,442
1900	436,299	433,660
Total	2,321,015	2,310,292

The following is a statement of the debt of the Municipality at the close of the year 1900:—

Debenture Debt of the Municipal Corporation on
31st December, 1900.

—	Original Debt.	Amount repaid.	Remarks.
Provision for the payment of Interest and Sinking Fund is made in Ord. 33 of 1881, amended by Ord. 16 of 1884-85.	£ 140,000	£ 11,100	Conversion Loan payable within the term of 49 years and 6 months from the 31st December, 1889.
Provision for the payment of Interest and Principal is made in Ord. 42 of 1888.	Rs. 156,000	Rs. 85,800	Colonial Loan payable within the term of 20 years from the year 1890 by yearly drawings by lot of 78 Debentures.

* Including Rs. 50,000 raised by a loan on account of overflowed expenses.

† Including Rs. 26,000 raised by a loan for general repairs to Grand River Suspension Bridge.

Debenture Debt—*continued.*MAURITIUS
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	Original Debt.	Amount repaid.	Remarks.
Provision for the pay- ment of Annuities is made in Ord. 20 of 1892 and Ord. 26 of 1893.	Rs. 150,000	Rs. 33,188	Government Hurricane Loan payable within the term of 25 years from 1st November, 1893, by Annuities of Rs. 9,601.80.
Provision for the pay- ment of Instalments is made in Ord. 31 of 1896.	50,000	16,667	Government Overflood Loan payable by 12 instalments of Rs. 4,166.66 each, the first being due on 31st December, 1897.
Provision for the pay- ment of Principal and Interest is made in Ord. 35 of 1897.	26,000	4,000	Grand River Bridge Loan payable within 13 years by yearly drawings by lot of 20 Debentures.
	382,000	139,655	

The Government has under consideration an Ordinance for amending the present constitution of the Municipality and increasing its usefulness as well as its efficiency.

It is probable that both will be attained by a reduction in the number of Councillors and a more stringent definition of responsibilities.

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II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the VALUE of the CHIEF ARTICLES of IMPORTS and EXPORTS
for the YEARS 1899-1900.

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.			
			1899.		1900.	
	1899.	1900.	Home Produce.	Foreign.	Home Produce.	Foreign.
Animals	Ra. 245,127	Ra. 248,120	Ra. 110	Ra. 1,200	Ra. 4,325	Ra. 6,550
Apothecary wares	127,615	106,452	—	3,905	—	2,411
Brass and copper wares	66,359	64,895	—	29,772	—	28,436
Corn, grain, flour, &c.	8,985,396	6,719,194	75	91,416	1,028	34,425
Cotton manufacture	1,267,495	1,198,780	—	—	—	12,858
Earthen and china wares	37,936	70,393	—	377	55	741

Fibre also ...	...	...	...	...	...	566,080	—	940,432	—
Haberdashery	...	...	...	...	...	—	3,128	32	3,674
Hardware and outlery	...	...	...	...	...	368,085	9,958	8,165	22,915
Jewellery	...	...	...	...	...	40,285	2,700	—	1,160
Leather (wrought and unwrought)	...	...	...	...	...	199,475	207	23,218	999
Machinery	...	...	...	...	...	154,681	4,302	233,655	600
Malt liquors, wines, and spirits	...	...	...	...	...	808,792	6,621	224,087	11,424
Manures and fertilizers	...	...	...	...	...	1,504,153	3,690	—	61
Matches	...	...	...	...	...	37,406	715	—	771
Molasses	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	380,635	—
Oils of all kinds	...	...	...	...	...	704,693	24,816	46,480	47,037
Painters' colours, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	68,648	819	—	500
Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	1,074,406	12,513	30,101	29,987
Seeds of all sorts	...	...	...	...	...	56,736	194	36	704
Silver (specie)	...	...	...	...	...	1,086,898	40,314	—	171,990
Soap	115,842	97	1,217	197
Carried forward	18,375,358	236,744	1,953,466	376,930
						16,561,400	1,201,469		

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IMPORTS AND EXPORTS—continued.

		Imports.		Exports.		
		1899.		1900.		
		1899.	1900.	Home Produce.	Foreign.	Home Produce.
Articles	...	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.
Brought forward	...	16,561,400	18,375,358	1,201,469	236,744	1,953,466
Stationery	...	105,836	122,488	—	280	—
Sugar..	...	—	—	23,044,657	—	28,836,355
Timber and wooden wares	...	538,931	689,264	3,661	8,664	2,897
Tobacco	...	190,257	199,352	—	804	—
Toys	...	24,708	31,159	—	16	5
Umbrellas and parasols	...	23,792	36,865	—	10	—
Vanilla	...	—	—	133,946	—	169,821
Miscellaneous	...	2,744,186	3,356,302	56,876	98,216	20,131
Total	...	20,189,110	22,810,778	24,440,609	344,734	30,882,674
	...					592,603

GENERAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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The Trade Returns for 1900 show an increase in the aggregate as compared with 1899, both in the value of the imports and exports.

Excluding exchange and charges, specie and bullion, the returns for 1900 show a decrease as compared with 1899 in the total value of the imports, and an increase in the value of exports.

Imports.

The imports from the United Kingdom in 1900, exclusive of charges and exchange, were valued at Rs. 4,959,943, as against Rs. 4,390,308 in 1899, or an increase of Rs. 569,635, about 13 per cent.

Imports from British Possessions increased in value from Rs. 12,830,168 in 1899 to Rs. 14,334,129 in 1900, and from Foreign Countries from Rs. 2,968,634 in 1899 to Rs. 3,516,709 in 1900.

Live Animals.

The total imports of live animals in 1900 show a decrease in value of Rs. 2,693 as compared with 1899. Cows and oxen have decreased by 1,993 in number and Rs. 18,600 in value; sheep have fallen off; swine have slightly increased, also dogs; horses have augmented by 589, of the value of Rs. 50,960; and mules are 25 less in number, and Rs. 29,520 in value declared.

Articles of Food and Drink and Narcotics.

The imports of rice in 1900 show a decrease of kilos. 20,895,822 in quantity, and Rs. 1,872,104 in value, as compared with 1899; wheat flour was also less by kilos. 1,132,193, and value Rs. 120,271; wheat increased to kilos. 503,250, of the value of Rs. 59,136, as against kilos. 323,958, of the value of Rs. 31,685 in 1899; Bran shows a small increase of kilos. 75,106, and value Rs. 13,361; Barley exhibits a large increase, amounting to kilos. 355,054, and value Rs. 36,673. Oats decreased by kilos. 1,432,528 in weight, and Rs. 126,560 in value; gram decreased by kilos. 2,686,527 in weight, and Rs. 170,284 in value; maize, oatmeal, pollard, and peas show a substantial increase.

Provisions—Preserved.

The declared total value in 1900 was Rs. 1,074,406, as against Rs. 1,043,445 in 1899, or an increase of Rs. 30,961. The following items show increases: Bacon and hams (Rs. 3,941); beef,

MAURITIUS salted (Rs. 45,842); fish, pickled (Rs. 9,200); lard (Rs. 53,005);
 AND preserved provisions (Rs. 20,733); sago (Rs. 4,956); salt
 RODRIGUES, (Rs. 19,585); vermicelli and macaroni (Rs. 1,573); while the
 1900. following items have declined: Butter; margarine; cheese;
 coffee; ghee (Rs. 53,365); onions and garlic (Rs. 14,890); pork
 (Rs. 2,356); tea (Rs. 27,683).

Beer and Ale.

The imports in 1900 show a decrease of 23,109 litres over 1899. Brandy increased from litres 46,240, of the value of Rs. 54,212 in 1899, to litres 52,400, of the value of Rs. 61,461. Whisky slightly decreased and champagne increased. Claret was 2,346,138, of the value of Rs. 483,585, as against 1,891,400 litres, of the value of Rs. 389,069, in 1899. Vermouth shows an increase of litres 39,128, and value Rs. 10,663.

Gandia.

Gandia decreased by kilos. 130 in weight and Rs. 600 in value in 1900 as compared with 1899.

Opium—Crude.

Opium (crude) decreased by kilos. 237 in weight, and Rs. 9,100 in value.

Coals.

Coals increased from kilos. 48,148,727 in weight, and value of Rs. 273,352, in 1899, to kilos. 56,370,045, and value Rs. 405,757.

Sulphate of Ammonia.

Sulphate of ammonia increased from kilos. 3,536,368 in weight, and value of Rs. 351,103, in 1899, to kilos. 5,152,668, and value Rs. 612,151, in 1900.

Guano and Manure of all sorts.

The value of guano and manure of all sorts in 1900 was Rs. 291,865, as compared with Rs. 221,730 in 1899.

Iron and Steel.

Iron and steel show, in 1900, a substantial increase as compared with 1899, as well as hardware and cutlery, painters' and dyers' colours, fireworks, leather (wrought and unwrought), stationery and paper wares.

These values are exclusive of charges.

EXPORTS (exclusive of shipping charges).

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Sugar.

In 1900 sugar was kilos. 174,765,785, of the declared value of Rs. 28,836,355, as against kilos. 164,911,833, of the value of Rs. 23,044,657, in 1899, or an increase of kilos. 9,853,952, and value of Rs. 5,791,698.

Rum.

The exports of rum in 1900 amounted to litres 1,970,226, of the value of Rs. 224,087, as against litres 1,468,104, and value Rs. 154,812. Increase in quantity 502,122, and in value Rs. 69,275, in 1900.

Oil—Cocoa-nut.

In 1900 the exports of cocoa-nut oil amounted to hectolitres 2,644, of the value of Rs. 46,480, as against hectolitres 1,265, and value Rs. 28,360, in 1899, or an increase of hectolitres 1,379, and value Rs. 18,120.

Hides.

53,410 kilos. of hides, of the value of Rs. 21,938, were exported in 1900, as compared with 73,369, and value Rs. 32,821, in 1899; the discontinuance of the bullock trade with Madagascar being the principal cause of the difference.

Fish—Dried or Salted.

The exports of fish (dried or salted) in 1900 were kilos. 68,816, valued at Rs. 21,078, and, in 1899, kilos. 28,013, valued at Rs. 10,806, or an increase of 40,803 kilos., and value Rs. 10,272.

Machinery.

The exports of machinery amounted to the value of Rs. 293,655 in 1900, as against Rs. 6,305 in 1899, the increase being chiefly due to machinery being supplied to Reunion.

Amongst the minor products of the Colony, vacoa bags, cows and oxen, cocoa-nuts, onions and garlic, and shell (tortoise) show a decided increase, while there is a large decrease in tea, skins, and soap in 1900 as compared with 1899.

The prevalence of plague has continued to interfere with exports to Reunion and Madagascar ports.

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COASTING TRADE.

The declared total value of the imports in 1900 amount to Rs. 568,186, as against Rs. 532,771 in 1899.

The total exports in 1900 were of the value of Rs. 342,473, as against Rs. 278,968 in 1899.

With the exception of Rodrigues, Eagle Island, St. Juan de Nova, and Solomon Islands, substantial increases are observable in the value of imports from all dependencies.

The exports to Rodrigues, Agalega, Diego Garcia, Eagle Island, St. Juan de Nova, Six Islands, and Solomon Islands exhibit decided increases in 1900 as compared with 1899.

INCREASES AND DECREASES OF ARTICLES OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURE AND BRITISH GOODS IMPORTED.

Apothecary Wares.

Apothecary wares from the United Kingdom increased in value from Rs. 36,546 in 1899 to Rs. 50,077 in 1900. From Germany the increase was from Rs. 215 to Rs. 2,444, while France shows a decrease from Rs. 81,286 in 1899 to Rs. 44,994 in 1900.

Apparel.

Under this heading the United Kingdom, Continental India, and France show increases in 1900 over 1899. Pondicherry furnished a value of Rs. 5,281 in 1900, as against Rs. 1,877 in 1899. There was a slight decrease in German goods.

Beef—Salted.

Salted beef from the United Kingdom decreased in value from Rs. 6,857 in 1899 to Rs. 2,596 in 1900. There was also a decrease from Australia of about 50 per cent., while imports from the United States of America increased in value from Rs. 31,070 in 1899 to Rs. 82,923 in 1900.

Beer and Ale (in bottles).

Beer and ale (in bottles) from the United Kingdom increased in value Rs. 1,684 in 1900. From France and Germany the decrease was Rs. 620 and Rs. 1,656 respectively.

Blacking.

Blacking from the United Kingdom shows an increase over 1899 to the value of Rs. 2,343, while France shows a decrease of over Rs. 1,000.

Butter.

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Butter from Denmark and the United States of America show increases. France increased from Rs. 531 in 1899 to Rs. 3,442 in 1900. Butter from the United Kingdom was valued at Rs. 42 only in 1900, as against Rs. 10,139 in 1899. There is also a decrease in the value of the Australian article.

Barley and Oats.

Imports of barley and oats from the Argentine Confederation show large increases in 1900 over 1899, and decreases of oats in the imports from Australia and India.

Wheat Flour.

Wheat flour from the above place increased from kilos. 294 in 1899 to kilos. 412,300 in 1900.

There was also an increase in Australian flour; while the imports from India declined from kilos. 6,790,974 in 1899 to kilos. 4,417,373 in 1900.

Cotton (Coloured).

The imports of coloured cotton from France increased in value Rs. 32,282 in 1899 to Rs. 37,399 in 1900; and from the United Kingdom decreased from Rs. 540,957 in value to Rs. 433,247. The value of the imports from Pondicherry and Switzerland show also a decided decrease.

Haberdashery.

In 1899 the value of haberdashery from the United Kingdom was declared at Rs. 195,883, and in 1900 Rs. 156,423, a large decrease; while from India, Germany, Holland, and France there was a large increase in 1900 over 1899.

Hats.

The value of hats from France increased somewhat, and from the United Kingdom decreased slightly.

Lard.

Increases are shown in lard from the United Kingdom, United States, and France, while from India and China there is a substantial decrease.

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—

Coals.

The imports of coals, both from the United Kingdom and India, have largely increased in 1900, to meet the requirements of passing steamers.

Machinery.

Germany supplied machinery in value Rs. 10,000 in 1900, as against nil in 1899. There was a large reduction both from the United Kingdom and France in 1900.

Guano.

Of guano Seychelles furnished kilos. 1,421,608 in 1900, as compared with kilos. 875,000 in 1899.

Margarine.

Margarine from the United Kingdom has diminished from kilos. 5,565 in 1899 to kilos. 212. There has been an increase of over kgs. 3,000 from Holland.

Packing Paper.

This article shows an increase in value from the United Kingdom and a decrease from France.

Salt.

The imports of salt from the United Kingdom decreased over kgs. 200,000. From India we received kilos. 762,972 in 1900 against nil in 1899.

Provisions—Preserved.

Increases are observed in preserved provisions from France, Germany, and the United States, and decreases from the United Kingdom, China, and Portugal.

Silk Manufactures.

The quantities of silk manufactures from Continental India and Germany have increased. From the United Kingdom, China, and France there are decreases in 1900.

Brandy.

Brandy from the United Kingdom increased in 1900 to 1,215 litres from 71 litres in 1899. From France there was an increase of about 5,447 litres. From Germany the imports were nil in 1900, as against 432 litres in 1899.

Whisky.

There is a slight increase in whisky from the United Kingdom in 1900. France decreased from 1,211 litres in 1899 to 139 litres in 1900, while none was received from the United States, as against 137 litres in 1899. The whisky imported from France is supposed to have been manufactured in Germany.

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Stationery.

There is a large increase in stationery from the United Kingdom, and a small increase from France and Germany, while Continental India and Belgium have supplied less.

Tobacco—Manufactured.

Increases occur under this head from China, France, Reunion, and the United States, and small decreases from the United Kingdom and Continental India.

Woollen Goods.

There is an increase in woollen goods from the United Kingdom from 161,576 metres in 1899 to metres 249,174 in 1900, and from France the increase was 27,038 metres. From Germany there was a decrease of 6,540 metres.

EXPORTS.*Sugar.*

Of the total quantity of sugar (kilos. 174,765,785) exported during 1900, the United Kingdom took kilos. 9,300,962, as against kilos. 6,415,260 in 1899. To the Cape Colonies, Continental India, and Seychelles the increase is marked. To France the exports increased to kilos. 1,964,796 in 1900 from kilos. 986,813 in 1899. Exports to the United States of America decreased to kilos. 16,289,215 in 1900 from kilos. 33,928,421 in 1899.

Rum.

During the past year our rum shows an increase to the United Kingdom and Aden as compared with 1899. There is a slight decrease to Seychelles.

Soap.

This article represents kilos. 25,935 exported to Madagascar in 1899, as against kilos. 3,710 in 1900.

Molasses.

The total exports of molasses in 1900 were to Continental India, except 507 kilos. to the United Kingdom. The increase to India amounts to 2,247,570 kilos. in 1900.

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—

Aloe Fibre.

The United Kingdom took of aloe fibre in 1900 kilos. 2,456,205, as against kilos. 1,970,779 in 1889. France is credited with kilos. 278,356 in 1900 and kilos. 42,250 in 1899, Holland with kilos. 166,650, as compared with kilos. 60,000 in 1899.

Oil—Cocoa-nut.

Our exports of cocoa-nut oil to Natal in 1900 are 2,400 litres, as against nil in 1899. To the United Kingdom there was an increase of 141,768 litres.

Vanilla.

The export of vanilla to the United Kingdom has increased from kilos. 3,237 in 1899 to kilos. 4,417 in 1900; while to France there is a falling off of kilos. 353 in 1900.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The amount of duty collected in 1900 on imports was Rs. 2,836,155, and on exports Rs. 563,360, total Rs. 3,399,515, as compared with Rs. 2,934,574 and Rs. 530,508, total Rs. 3,465,082, in 1899. The surcharge of 20 per cent. levied in 1899, and not continued in 1900, is accountable, to some extent, for the shrinkage.

The rate of imports and exports per head of population was as follows:—

—		1899.	1900.
		Rs.	Rs.
Imports ...	...	74.12	82.01
Exports ...	...	72.27	87.58

The continued prevalence of bubonic plague has again interfered with the shipping trade of the Colony during the past year. Madagascar has remained practically closed against our local produce, and our meat supply has diminished owing to the quarantine regulations and the enhanced prices of cattle.

The cattle plague in Reunion has caused a reduction in the value of our imports from that Colony in 1900 to the extent of Rs. 16,892 as compared with 1899. Exports, however, are of a value of Rs. 292,495 in 1900, as against Rs. 100,744 in 1899, consisting almost exclusively of machinery and mill work supplied by the engineering establishments of this Colony for use in Reunion.

In addition to the foregoing remarks it is necessary to notice a change in the character and tendency of trade. Importers have shown a tendency to trade on small stocks. This has been attributed to two causes:—

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1. The general rise in prices, which has been assigned to the demands caused by the South African war. Importers have anticipated that there will be a fall in prices at the close of the war and have therefore kept small stocks. It is not necessary to criticise the justice of this expectation, but it may be noted that the increase in prices may be equally attributed to the world's increased output of gold and the consequent cheapening of gold.

2. There is also a tendency to a quick turn-over. This tendency is caused by the natural desire to avoid keeping capital locked up in reserve stocks.

The policy of importers is outside the limits of criticism permissible in an official report, and it has the justification that deficiencies can speedily be supplied by the use of the submarine cable. But it is, perhaps, permissible to remark that while small stocks of ironmongery or manufactures need cause no anxiety, as a purchaser of such articles is not exposed to any great hardship by having to wait a few weeks whilst the order which may be given by cable is being executed, the same cannot be said of foodstuffs; an accident to a steamer bringing food would cause a serious scarcity so long as stocks are kept as low as they have been kept of late years.

MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

The fisheries of the Colony, in so far as the food supply is concerned, have in no wise improved during the year. The island is still tributary to the islands, dependencies of the Colony, and to British and Foreign Countries and Colonies for the supply of salted fish, and the supply by importation in 1900, compared with 1899, shows a considerable decrease. The figures are as follows:—

—		1899.		1900.	
		Ks.	Rs.	Ks.	Rs.
Dried and salted from exterior	...	935,236	243,502	513,169	156,367
Pickled	" "	51,505	11,424	90,728	26,307
From Islands Dependencies of Mauritius.	of	548,761	61,620	366,779	60,262
Total	...	1,535,502	316,546	970,666	242,936

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The exports of fish and fishing products are restricted to the "Bambara," or sea slugs, which are not consumed in the Colony but sent to Hong Kong and Singapore (this industry is chiefly in the hands of the Chinamen), and to tortoise and pearl shells. The exports for 1900, compared with 1899, are as follows:—

	1899.		1900.	
	Ks.	Rs.	Ks.	Rs.
Bambara, or sea slugs, dried fish ...	28,013	10,086	68,816	21,078
Tortoise shells and pearl shells ...	251	6,178	423	8,088

The legislation in regard to fisheries will be found in the report for 1898, and it is only necessary to remark that it is doubtful whether the policy of creating reserves or protected waters does not result in creating preserves for the benefit of carnivorous fish. Fish are naturally prolific, and if the ova and the young could be protected against their enemies the increase of fish would be enormous. But it is a question whether the breeding grounds and the young can be so protected. The question is one calling for careful study.

The principal manufactures show the following results in 1900 as compared with 1899:—

Rum.

Year.	Consumption	Exported.*	Rate Duty.	Excise Duty.
	Litres.	Litres.	Rs.	Rs.
1899 ...	978,128	1,468,004	1.32 & 1.45†	1,359,677
1900 ...	1,004,902	1,917,081	—	1,462,485
Increase ...	26,774	449,077	—	102,808

Aloe Fibre.

Year.	Exports.	Value.
	Ks.	Rs.
1899 ...	2,249,909	566,030
1900 ...	3,105,341	940,432
Increase ...	846,532	374,402

* The export of rum is free.

† R. 1.32 c. per litre to 11th July and 1.45 per litre to the close of the year.

Tea.

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—

In 1900 the number of acres under cultivation for tea was about 225, against 200 in 1899. The quantity of tea manufactured in 1900 was about 31,000 kilos., against 27,000 in 1899. The exports in 1900 amounted to 281 kilos., against 2,685 kilos. in 1899, showing a decrease of 2,404 kilos., and the average selling price of tea manufactured was R. 1.20; almost the whole crop was consumed in the Colony.

Soap.

The produce of soap of the Colony in 1900 was kilos. 263,100, compared with in 1899 416,712 kilos., it showed a decrease of kilos. 153,612.

The exports in 1900 (3,911 kilos.), against 26,532 kilos. in 1899, showed a decrease of 22,621 kilos.

The export of soap was, as in 1899, chiefly to Madagascar, and the continued decrease is due to the protective duties imposed in Madagascar on British goods.

The general imports of soap were, in 1900, kilos. 678,184, against kilos. 826,841 in 1899, showing a decrease of kilos. 148,657.

Vinegar.

In 1900 the production of vinegar was 32,732 litres, showing a decrease of 18,873 litres compared with 1899. The excise duty, however, amounted in 1900 to Rs. 52,849, showing an increase of Rs. 5,349 on 1899. The export was merely nominal, the vinegar being consumed in the Colony.

Wine.

The wine is made from raisins. The production was 10,041 litres, against 6,467 in 1899, and the amount of duty received was Rs. 530 on 6,305 litres only, issued for home consumption during 1900, against Rs. 593 for duty in 1899, showing a decrease of Rs. 63 in the amount of excise duty received.

Vanilla.

The whole production of vanilla was exported.

In 1900 it amounted to kilos. 4,552, valued at Rs. 169,821, against kilos. 3,709, valued at Rs. 133,946 in 1899, an increase in production and in value over 1899 of 743 kilos. and Rs. 25,875 respectively.

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Jewellery.

The quantity of Indian jewellery manufactured in the Colony appears to be on the increase. The imports of bullion in 1899 and 1900 were respectively valued at Rs. 6,240 and Rs. 33,427, showing an increase of Rs. 27,187 in 1900, in spite of an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent. imposed on bullion on 28th July, 1900, by Ordinance 17 of 1900 (*see Taxation*).

The Indian jewellery imported in 1900 was valued at Rs. 9,826, and in 1899 it was valued at Rs. 1,574, showing an increase in 1900 of Rs. 8,252.

The manufacturing jewellers' license is Rs. 40 per half year, and the number of six months' licenses issued in 1899 was 177, against 216 in 1900, showing an increase of 39 in 1900.

INFLUENCE OF BOTANICAL STATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT OF MINOR INDUSTRIES.

No alterations were made during the year to the Botanic Gardens sections—Pamplemousses, Curepipe, and Reduit.

As usual, large numbers of economic and ornamental plants, forest trees, and fruit trees have been propagated and sent all over the island. The most important ones are the following:—

Coffee, litchis, nutmegs, cloves, different varieties of citrus, kola, coca, aegle marmelos, pine-apple, bananas, cacao, coconut, manihot, &c.

Sansevieria, different varieties of agave, China grass, New Zealand flax, &c.

Ceara, para, cryptostegia, vahea.

Teosinte, desmodium tortuosum, lucerne.

A collection of 97 varieties of canes.

Three new varieties of sugar canes received from the Commissioner of Agriculture, East Indies, were added to the collection and are being propagated for distribution amongst the planters.

A certain number of School Board apprentices, selected by the Schools' Committee, are sent yearly to the gardens to be trained. After a certain time, those that have given satisfaction are promoted in the Department or recommended for employment in private gardens.

Reduit Gardens.

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These form part of the Reduit Domain, His Excellency the Governor's residence.

Part of the ground is under forest. Extensive plantations of timber trees have lately been made there; these produce every year a large quantity of seeds which are used for re-afforestation purposes.

Curepipe Gardens.

This garden is chiefly used as a nursery for economic plants and timber trees that cannot be successfully grown at Pamplemousses owing to the climate.

Large numbers of seedling exotic plants are raised yearly—juniperus, pinus sinensis, eucalyptus—which are either sold to the public or used for planting up the Government lands all over the Colony.

LAND GRANTS.

There are no Crown lands in Mauritius available for settlement. The Pas Geometriques, that is to say, a strip of land round the coast, is inalienable, and can only be leased by public auction.

The forests, though a valuable asset, are strictly preserved, and legislation will be introduced during the current session (1901) for increasing their area by a general scheme of land purchase and reafforestation.

The remaining Crown lands are of small area or value; 4.65 English acres, of an aggregate value of Rs. 3,052, were sold during the year 1900.

SHIPPING.

The following returns give a comparative statement of the shipping that entered and cleared during the last five years, as well as statements of the shipping entered and cleared, showing the numbers and tonnage as well as the nationalities of the shipping that entered and left.

It will be noticed that the tendency is towards an increase of British shipping.

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SHIPPING INWARDS and OUTWARDS for the YEARS 1896-1900.

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.				Foreign.				Total.							
	With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		With Cargoes.		In Ballast.					
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.				
	Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.		Total.					
1896	134	77,094	12	6,863	52	19,862	21	7,562	73	27,424	186	96,956	33	14,425	219	111,381
1897	106	56,676	7	2,653	55	16,995	15	7,047	70	24,042	161	73,671	22	9,700	183	83,371
1898	118	58,856	4	1,751	31	12,872	13	4,882	44	17,754	149	71,728	17	6,633	166	78,361
1899	90	52,874	4	1,195	35	17,688	7	2,023	44	19,711	125	70,562	11	3,218	136	73,380
1900	86	53,379	6	1,649	24	13,849	1	1,595	25	15,444	110	67,228	7	3,244	117	70,472

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Steamers—Entered.

9976

1896	...	85	156,602	18	35,964	103	192,566	65	84,078	4	6,346	69	90,424	150	240,680	22	42,310	172	282,990
1897	...	73	144,063	7	11,617	80	155,680	69	89,657	—	—	69	89,657	142	233,720	7	11,617	149	245,337
1898	...	65	140,131	10	17,312	75	157,648	57	84,626	4	6,817	61	91,402	122	224,756	14	24,129	136	248,885
1899	...	59	132,913	19	57,801	78	170,714	54	87,094	4	5,781	58	92,875	113	220,007	23	43,582	130	363,589
1900	...	72	140,718	18	34,105	90	174,823	52	82,842	7	9,697	59	92,539	124	223,560	25	43,802	149	267,362

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

1896	...	114	37,486	28	41,786	142	79,272	67	24,290	6	3,757	73	28,087	181	61,776	34	45,533	215	107,329
1897	...	91	36,276	30	28,490	121	64,766	55	16,686	95	7,515	70	24,201	146	52,962	45	36,005	191	88,967
1898	...	88	30,870	27	25,563	115	56,438	38	12,582	5	3,428	43	16,010	126	43,452	32	28,996	158	72,448
1899	...	65	20,902	33	36,387	98	57,289	32	15,228	12	6,651	44	21,879	97	36,130	45	43,038	142	79,168
1900	...	66	23,366	30	30,562	96	53,928	12	4,331	12	10,891	24	15,222	78	27,697	42	41,453	120	69,150

0

Steamers—Cleared.

Year	British.				Foreign.				Total.									
	With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.		With Cargoes.		In Ballast.		Total.							
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.						
1896	79	147,874	22	40,683	101	188,557	67	85,813	4	6,757	71	92,570	146	233,687	26	47,440	172	281,127
1897	63	127,705	19	32,354	82	160,059	64	85,693	5	3,964	69	89,657	127	213,398	24	36,318	151	249,716
1898	57	125,132	17	29,276	74	154,408	47	76,573	14	14,869	61	91,442	104	201,705	31	44,145	135	245,850
1899	62	137,167	15	32,044	77	169,211	29	50,405	27	40,403	56	90,808	91	187,572	42	72,447	133	260,019
1900	68	131,116	20	38,652	88	169,768	35	53,040	25	41,148	60	94,188	103	184,156	45	79,800	148	233,966

III.—LEGISLATION.

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The session of 1900 was comparatively unimportant from a legislative point of view. It was the last session of an expiring Council of Government, and, in accordance with constitutional custom, all important legislative measures were adjourned till after the general election.

The principal measures passed were:—

1. A measure for increasing the Governor's salary from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 75,000 per annum.
2. A measure to enable provision for the survey of passenger steamers.
3. An Ordinance for consolidating and amending the Sanitation Ordinances passed during the years 1899 and 1900.

The various Ordinances passed from time to time as experience or necessity dictated required consolidation and amendment, as their defects or merits had been tested by practical experience during two years of the plague campaign. The time was considered opportune for their consolidation and amendment.

4. An Ordinance was also passed to prohibit the exportation to or for China of arms and ammunition, military stores, or naval stores.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

At the end of 1900 there were 173 primary schools in operation, divided as follows:—

Government and secular schools	...	...	75
Aided and denominational	...	...	98
			<u>173</u>

In all the primary schools of the Colony the teaching of the English and French languages, and of arithmetic, is obligatory.

The number of pupils under instruction was 19,481 on roll, and 12,235 in average attendance. This low attendance is attributable to malarial fever, plague, and the enforcing of quarantine against plague by owners of sugar estates.

The Government schools included the following categories:—

1. 1st Grade, 1st Division, in which no result payments are made.
 2. 1st Grade, 2nd Division
 3. 2nd Grade, Full time
 4. 2nd Grade, Half time
- } in which teachers draw fixed salaries and result grants.

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In 1900 the attendance and examination results in these four classes of schools were as follows:—

School.	Number of Schools.	Number on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number Examined.	Number Passed.	Percentage of Passes.
1st Grade, 1st Division ...	12	2,595	1,524	1,559	960	61·56
1st Grade, 2nd Division ...	35	5,066	3,151	3,072	2,166	70·5
2nd Grade, Full time ...	23	1,759	1,046	856	575	67·17
2nd Grade, Half time ...	6	427	234	191	106	55·40

The denominational aided schools stood as follows:—

	Number of Schools.	Number on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Number Examined.	Number Passed.	Percentage of Passes.
Roman Catholic ...	64	7,146	4,658	3,713	2,572	69·
Church of England ...	31	2,105	1,350	1,130	747	66·
Presbyterian Mission ...	2	175	133	131	70	53·74
Mahomedan ...	1	209	139	118	74	62·71

With regard to their race the children attending the primary schools last year are to be classified as follows:—

Government Schools.

Children of European, African, or Chinese descent	6,697
Indians and Indo-Mauritians ...	2,908

Aided Schools.

Creoles of European, African, or Chinese descent	6,736
Indians or Indo-Mauritians ...	3,150

With regard to their creed they stood as follows:—

	Government Schools.	Aided Schools.
Roman Catholics	6,620	7,037
Church of England	274	300
Other Christian Denominations ...	101	92
Mahomedans	878	661
Hindoos	1,732	1,795

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1900.

Including the cost of administration, Government expended on primary education in 1900 the sum of Rs. 298,870.

The cost per pupil on roll was:—

In Government schools Rs. 17.58
In aided schools 12.00

The cost per pupil in average attendance was:—

In Government schools Rs. 29.07
In aided schools 18.06

The teaching staff in the primary schools in 1900 comprised:—

In Government Schools.

Sixty-two masters, 14 mistresses, 77 assistants, and 117 monitors and monitresses.

In Aided Schools.

Ninety-six head teachers and 98 assistants.

These 194 represent the teachers whose salaries were paid by Government in accordance with the Code, the monitorial staff in aided schools being paid by the Managers.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The work of secondary education in the Colony is carried out:—

1. By the Royal College and its two schools.
2. By private schools for boys in association with the Royal College.
3. By private schools for girls presenting their pupils for examination under a scheme approved by Government.

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1900.

The Royal College.

The Royal College is a public school affiliated to the London University. It comprises (1) the Royal College proper, temporarily situated at Curepipe, preparing its pupils for the London University Intermediate in Arts and Matriculation Examinations, and for the Senior and Junior Cambridge Local Examinations. (3) Two schools, one at Curepipe and the other in Port Louis.

The Royal College has a classical and a modern side, in the highest form of each of which there is a competition for a scholarship of £200, tenable for four years, enabling the holder to complete his education in the United Kingdom. For these scholarships there were, in 1900, ten candidates on the classical and eight on the modern side. The reports of the Examiners appointed by the Cambridge Syndicate were of a commendatory character.

The College presented no candidate last year for the London University Intermediate in Arts Examination.

For the London University Examination 14 students were presented, nine of whom passed.

For the Senior Cambridge Local Examinations 58 candidates were presented, of these 23 passed.

For the Junior Cambridge Local Examinations 17 candidates were sent up, four of whom passed.

In the lower forms of the College proper, and in the school classes, the results were satisfactory.

The number of pupils at the Royal College and its two schools was as follows:—

Royal College proper.

	Number.
On roll	202
In average attendance	169

Royal College School, Port Louis.

	Number.
On roll	67
In average attendance	54

*Royal College School, Curepipe.*MAURITIUS
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—	Number.
On roll	131
In average attendance	116

The sum expended by Government in 1900 on the Royal College and its two schools was Rs. 151,639.67; the total sum expended on secondary education being Rs. 163,639.67, in which are included Rs. 7,000 for grants to associated schools, and Rs. 5,000 for grants to girls' schools.

The cost per pupil at the Royal College in 1900 was :—

—	Rupees.
On roll	379.09
In average attendance	447.31

With regard to the staff employed, there were 16 teachers at the College proper, 11 at the Curepipe school, and eight at the Port Louis school. In addition to these, there were the rector, the secretary, four teachers of religious instruction, teachers of drawing, gymnastics, Hindustani, and book-keeping, four ushers, and 16 servants, making a total of 65 individuals.

Associated Schools.

In 1900 there were 27 schools in association with the Royal College, 25 in Mauritius and two at Seychelles. These presented 489 candidates to be examined on the Curriculum of Studies at the Royal College school. Of these, 200 passed the examinations creditably. The sum of Rs. 7,000 was distributed as result grants among the Managers of these schools.

HIGHER EDUCATION OF GIRLS.

This is effected by grants being paid to Managers of girls' schools who submit their pupils every year to be examined on a graduated Curriculum of Studies approved by Government. Last year 28 girls' schools applied for examination. 251 candidates were presented, of whom 101 passed the examinations with credit. The sum expended last year on this item was Rs. 4,796.75.

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TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

There exists in the Colony no industrial, technical, or agricultural schools. The only approach to technical education consists:—

For girls, of four needlework apprenticeships, each tenable for three years, and of the annual value of Rs. 100, which are given every year, by competitive examination, to girls in the primary schools between 14 and 17 years of age.

For boys, (1) of five apprenticeships, each tenable for five years, at the Government Plaine Lauzun Railway workshops, awarded every year, by competitive examinations, to lads under 16 years of age. (2) Of two apprenticeships, each tenable for four years, at the Botanical Gardens, and awarded every year, by competitive examinations, to boys between 14 and 17.

The number of apprentices last year was 11 girls and 20 boys, at a total cost of Rs. 5,012.77.

The weak points of the educational system of Mauritius are probably:—

1. The Royal College is a mere day school, resembling a French lycée rather than an English public school.

There is a total absence of school life and of all the moral and physical training which school life affords.

2. There is a great deficiency in technical or specialised training. The schools turn out annually a large supply of youths with a certain amount of literary education but without special aptitudes or special qualifications.

3. In the aided schools the teachers are not in all cases competent to teach or to train the children. It is assumed that persons who are acquainted with the elementary subjects are competent to teach them and to train children. It is needless to say that the manner and method of imparting knowledge are perhaps the most important part of any educational system.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

There has been no change in the number of institutions in Mauritius during the year.

The work of the Port Louis civil hospital compares favourably with that of the previous year. A small laboratory has been fitted up whereby microscopical and bacteriological examinations are facilitated.

The work done at the other public hospitals has also been on a par with those of previous years. In addition to 16,272 cases

shown in the nosological returns, there were 8,352 out-door patients who received care and advice at the public dispensaries.

The year 1900 was on the whole a good year, and poverty was less felt than at ordinary times, but there can be no doubt that pauperism is on the increase in Mauritius, especially amongst the creole population.

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GOVERNMENT REFORMATORY.

The Reformatory cannot be described as a success. About 50 per cent. of the boys become criminals, and the Reformatory cannot therefore be said to attain its main object, namely, the reformation of the character of the boys.

Under the new Education Ordinance, the Reformatory has been placed under the control of one of the Committees of Education, and it is to be hoped that such amendments may be introduced into the system as to make the Reformatory what it ought to be—an institution for the reformation and education of boys who have unfortunately acquired criminal habits or instincts.

The following are the returns for the Reformatory :—

The admissions show a decrease of 56, and the discharges a decrease of 76 compared to the year 1899.

Thirteen escapes took place, against six in 1899, showing an increase of seven. They were all recaptured.

The total number of admissions to hospital shows an increase of 25, and, therefore, an increase of '07 in the daily average number of admissions.

No death took place in 1899 or 1900.

The total cost of maintaining and guarding the boys was Rs. 15,256.11, against Rs. 15,967.61 in 1899, showing, therefore, a decrease of Rs. 711.50 compared to 1899.

The total cost per head on average number of boys was Rs. 228.93, against Rs. 196.11 in 1899, showing, therefore, an increase of Rs. 32.82 per head for 1900.

The earnings amounted to Rs. 2,700.72, against Rs. 4,418.84 in 1899. The decrease is, therefore, of Rs. 1,718.12.

SAVINGS BANK.

The amount deposited in 1900 was Rs. 1,048,813. This amount, compared with the deposits of 1899, shows an increase of Rs. 48,671.

The amount withdrawn in 1900 was Rs. 1,076,694, showing an increase on the preceding year of Rs. 88,066.

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1900.** The total sum standing to the credit of depositors at the end of 1900, including the interest due, was Rs. 2,940,811. Of this sum Rs. 1,363,708 belonged to the Indian population, showing an increase of Rs. 65,740 on the preceding year.

The number of depositors increased from 24,784 in 1899 to 25,060 in 1900, showing an increase of 276 over 1899.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The total effective strength of the Police Force, as authorised by Government, was 709 on the 31st December, 1900; the actual strength was 702.

This force contained no less than 21 nationalities, composed of:—

- 42 Europeans of various nationalities.
- 479 Natives of Mauritius.
- 168 Indians.
- 1 Arab.
- 1 American.
- 1 Australian.
- 1 New Zealander.
- 1 Native of Trinidad.
- 4 Natives of Reunion.
- 1 Native of Madagascar.
- 2 Natives of the Cape of Good Hope.
- 1 Native of British West Indies.

The force has necessarily the defects of its qualities.

It is not a homogeneous body, and its military value is, therefore, nil. At the same time it must be stated that it is probably a fairly representative force, as the population of Mauritius is of a very mixed character.

Considerable improvements have been made in the organisation and training of the force. Drill has been introduced. A khaki uniform has been issued, and the bearing and appearance of the men have been improved.

Two hundred and sixteen sub-officers and constables were in possession of the silver and bronze medals for good conduct.

The total number of offences of every description reported to the police in 1900 was 21,824, in connection with which 12,986 persons were apprehended or summoned.

The cases and persons are classified in the following return :—

Nature of Offences.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons Charged.	MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900.
Serious offences reported to, or detected by the Police, in which persons were charged.	2,038	2,582	
Serious offences reported to, or detected by the Police, which formed the subject of enquiries, and in which no persons were charged.	7,622	*217	
Minor offences reported to, or detected by the Police, in which persons were charged.	6,336	8,668	
Minor offences reported to, or detected by the Police, which formed the subject of enquiries, and in which no persons were charged.	4,311	—	
Other offences against the Labour Law ...	595	597	
Vagrancy	922	922	
Total	21,824	12,986	

The total number of fires which formed the subject of police investigation in 1900 was 277. The total estimated value of property destroyed was Rs. 182,461. There were three lives lost at these fires, all Indians.

Incendiarism still exists, but it has been reduced, and every detected and convicted case tends to discourage this form of personal revenge or commercial gain.

PRISONS.

There are two prisons in Mauritius, the central prison at Beau Bassin, and the Port Louis prison, which is used for untried prisoners as well as for certain prisoners whom it is considered desirable to retain in town either for sanitary or other reasons.

The central prison at Beau Bassin, which is a fine large prison built on the best English model, has proved to be unhealthy, and every effort is being made to trace the cause of the unhealthiness. The latest explanation, and one that seems probable, is that the prisoners, who are accustomed to live crowded together in small huts, experience a chill in entering the cool

* Arrested on suspicion.

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—

cells of the prisons, and that the chills predispose to malaria and dysentery whilst they promote tuberculosis.

Practically, at least three-fourths of the population of Mauritius have malaria in their system, and it is well known that chills have a great influence in developing malaria.

Measures are being taken to guard against chills. Mattresses are supplied and a large supply of blankets, but it is probable that other measures will have to be taken, and the question is receiving the attention of the Government.

The neighbourhood of the prison will require to be more thoroughly drained, and arrangements may have to be made for fitting gauze mosquito windows to the cells and for admitting more sunlight to the central corridors of the prisons, as well as for guarding the prisoners from draughts whilst at work.

Prison Returns.

The admissions show a decrease of 561 males and 28 females.

The discharges a decrease of 476 males and 32 females (convicted prisoners).

A decrease of 1.54 males is reckoned in the daily average number of admissions.

The average number of convicted and unconvicted prisoners unlocked each day decreased by 123 males and three females.

Twenty-one escapes of prisoners took place in 1899 and 25 in 1900, but of these one recapture was effected in 1899 and three in 1900.

The admissions to hospital *increased* by 111 males, and decreased by 42 females in 1900.

Thirty-nine deaths took place in 1899 and 70 in 1900.

The percentage on the average number of prisoners was 4.38 for Port Louis and 4.64 for Beau Bassin in 1899, and 4.63 for Port Louis and 11.83 for Beau Bassin in 1900.

The total cost of housing, guarding, and maintaining the prisoners was Rs. 127,992.72 in 1899, against Rs. 126,653.84 in 1900.

The total cost per head was Rs. 145.28 in 1899, against Rs. 167.95 in 1900.

The earnings amounted to Rs. 120,158.66 in 1899, against Rs. 100,236.05 in 1900.

The total earnings per head was Rs. 168.28 in 1899, against Rs. 158.10 in 1900.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the judicial statistics for the year 1900. The only remark that it is necessary to make, in respect of this table, is that the decrease of serious crime, which has been so marked a feature of the judicial statistics since 1897, was continued during 1900:—

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Informations in the Supreme, District, and Stipendiary Courts of Mauritius.

How case tried ended.	The numbers below include attempts to commit the several offences.																
	Total.	Murder other than wife and child murder.	Manslaughter.	Attempt at murder.	Murder of wife, reputed wife or concubine.	Child murder.	Concealment of birth.	Abortion.	Rape.	Unnatural crimes.	Other offences against the person.	Malicious injuries to property.	Robbery with violence.	Pre-dial larceny.	Other offences against property.	Vaccination.	Miscellaneous offences.
Judgment for the Crown ...	17,537	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	830	25	41	250	1,322	—	15,062
Judgment for the prisoner ...	1,675	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	409	22	23	39	327	—	841
Prisoners found insane ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1
Cases which fell through for want of prosecution, including cases which the Procureur General declined to take to the Assizes ...	2,742	—	1	14	—	—	—	—	4	—	233	11	10	9	704	—	1,756

* i.e., Five or more than five in number.

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1900.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The estimated total population, on the 31st December, 1900, was 383,084, as against 370,588 at the census of 1891. The males were estimated to number 208,677, as against 206,038 at the last census; and the females 174,407, as against 164,550, showing that the males have increased by 2,639 and the females by 9,819. Dividing the population into general population and Indian population, the former are estimated at 117,921, as against 114,668 at the last census; the latter are estimated at 265,163, as against 255,920, showing a steady proportional increase of the Indian population as compared with the Creole population.

The following table gives a detailed statement of the changes in the various classes of the population during the year 1900 :—

Return of the Statistics of Population for 1900.

	General Population : Europeans, Whites, Africans, Mixed and Coloured.	Indians.	Chinese.
No. of inhabitants on the 31st December, 1899.	114,841	261,739.	3,079
No. of births during 1900 ...	3,915	10,517	58
No. of deaths during 1900 ...	4,100	9,424	167
No. of immigrants during 1900	1,646	4,397	26
No. of emigrants during 1900	1,605	2,067	570
No. of inhabitants on 31st December, 1900.	114,697	265,162	3,226
Increase... ..	—	3,423	147
Decrease	144	—	—

GENERAL STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

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AND
RODRIGUES,
1900.

There was no improvement in the sanitary condition of the island in 1900, as the following figures will show:—

Death-rate.

Year.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1897 ...	29·5
1898 ...	31·9
1899 ...	34·8
1900 ...	35·7

The diseases which gave rise to the highest mortality were:—

Disease.	Percentage on Total Deaths.
Malarial fever	34·5
Debility (sic)	8·9
Phthisis (including consumption and tuberculosis)	6·1
Pneumonia	5·7
Bronchitis	5·2
Dysentery	5·0
Plague	4·4
Whooping cough	3·2
Diarrhoea and enteritis	2·7
Influenza	1·7
Child-birth and sequelae	1·24

PREVAILING DISEASES.

The plague outbreak of 1899 abated about the middle of April, and assumed an epidemic form again in July, which ex-

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900. tended till the month of January, 1900. A fresh outbreak occurred in August, 1900, and continued during the rest of the year.

There were 796 cases in the Colony in 1900 with 593 deaths.

As a suggestion has been made in Hong Kong that there is some connection between the rainfall and the period of dormancy, a diagram showing the curves of rainfall, temperature, and plague cases has been kindly prepared by the Director of the Observatory and Dr. Bolton of the Medical Department.

In so far as the curves suggest anything, they appear to suggest a connection between the period of abatement or dormancy and temperature rather than rainfall.

At the same time, it is probable that the heavy tropical rains drown many rats, and it is reasonable to suppose that sick rats would be the first to be drowned. The suggestion, therefore, deserves consideration, and the comparison will be made in future years.

A brief account of the measures taken to prevent the spread of plague, as well as the treatment adopted in plague cases, will be found in the report for 1899.

There is little to add to that report, except that confidence in Yersin's serum as a prophylactic for contacts has been strengthened by experience.

Malaria.

There are two species of anopheles mosquito in Mauritius. The smaller, the anopheles costalis, inhabits the coast districts, the larger species, the anopheles mauritianus, inhabits the higher inland districts.

During the year 1900, malarial fever, which has hitherto spared the inland districts, appeared in an epidemic form at Moka, a district hitherto free from fever, and soon spread to Curepipe and districts hitherto immune.

The question arises, therefore, whether this spread of malaria was due to a migration of the smaller species of mosquito, or whether the larger species, or rather the female of the larger species, has become a poison carrier. A committee has been appointed to investigate this question, and careful microscopical and possibly physiological experiments will be made. It is, of course, to be hoped that the epidemic was due to a migration of the smaller species caused by an exceptionally hot season, for in that case the higher districts may hope to recover their immunity during the normal and cooler years; but, up to the present time (July, 1901), nothing definite has been determined.

Meanwhile, steps are being taken to drain pools and other breeding places of the anopheles mosquito.

Enteric fever is, unfortunately, making slow but sure progress in the higher and healthier localities of the island.

Dysentery occurred in a sporadic form, and at one time assumed an epidemic character. The saline treatment continues to give satisfactory results in the acute form of the disease. Tuberculosis is on the increase. Poverty, and overcrowding consequent upon poverty, seem to be the predisposing causes.

The inhabitants may be said to be tolerably well protected by vaccination.

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CLIMATE.

The following is the meteorological report for 1900:—

(1) *Rainfall.*

In the year 1900 the rainfall was considerably below the average in all parts of the island; the mean rainfall at ten stations being 53·04 inches, or 30 per cent. below the average for the last 30 years, the least on record, except in 1886, when it was 44·89, or 41 per cent. below the average. The greatest fall was 115·63 inches at Mare-aux-Vacoas, and the least 17·14 inches at Port Louis.

The wettest month was March and the driest September.

On the average, March is the wettest and October the driest month.

(2) *Temperature.*

At the Observatory.

In the Thermograph Screen.

Temperature of the Air.	1900.	1875-1900.
Mean	73·6	73·5
Mean maximum...	81·8	81·2
Mean minimum...	66·9	67·2
Absolute maximum	94·8	94·8
Absolute minimum	50·8	50·8

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(2) *Temperature—continued.*

At Curepipe (in a large Stevenson screen) 1886–1900.

In the Thermograph Screen.

Temperature of the Air.	1900.	1875–1900.
Mean	68·1	67·9
Mean maximum	75·1	74·2
Mean minimum	61·2	61·5
Absolute maximum	84·5	87·2
Absolute minimum	46·5	44·0

(3) *Direction and Force of Wind.*

At the Observatory (as deduced from the records of a self-registering Beckly anemometer).

Wind.	1900.	1876–1900.	Mean daily range.
Mean direction	S. 7° E.	S. 74° E.	19°
Mean velocity, miles per hour ...	9·6	11·1	7·7
Maximum velocity, miles per hour	26·0	103·3	—

When the velocity of the wind is small its direction varies considerably in different parts of the island, but no systematic observations are made except at the Royal Alfred Observatory.

(4) *Special Features.*

The hottest season in Mauritius is between December and April, the remainder of the year being comparatively cool. The temperature on the highlands is always lower by several degrees than in Port Louis and the coast districts. The climate at Curepipe (from 1,700 to 1,900 feet above the sea) resembles that of the south of France or Italy. The hurricane season extends from December to April, and cyclones range from about 8° to 30° south latitude. During the hurricane months the greater part of the rain falls, although the remaining months are by no means dry; July and August, during which the S.E. trade winds reach their maximum velocity, showing a marked increase on the months immediately preceding and

following. In these months the warm, damp sea air of the trades is carried into the higher regions of the island. The dew point is reached, and the rain is deposited in what may be called a Scotch mist.

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VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICES.

There are 60 post offices, 60 money order offices, and 51 telegraph offices in Mauritius.

An annual subsidy of £8,000 is paid to the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company in respect of their submarine cable from Mauritius to Seychelles, and Seychelles to Zanzibar. Of this sum £7,000 is borne by Mauritius and £1,000 by Seychelles.

IX.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The following was the strength of the garrison of Mauritius at the close of the year 1900 :—

Return showing the strength of the Troops serving in Mauritius on the 31st December, 1900.

	No.
Staff	3
No. 8 Company W.D. Royal Garrison Artillery ...	150
No. 26 " " " ...	147
No. 4 Company Ceylon-Mauritius Battalion R.G.A. ...	101
Mauritius Submarine Mining Company R.E. ...	46
43rd Company Royal Engineers ...	43
2nd Battalion K.O. Yorkshire Light Infantry...	54
Army Service Corps ...	4
Royal Army Medical Corps ...	16
Army Ordnance Corps ...	12
Army Pay Corps ...	1
1st Bengal Infantry ...	776
27th Madras Infantry ...	786
Total ...	2,139*

* Exclusive of 172 native followers.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1900. Towards the maintenance of that force, the total cost of which was £176,117, the Colony contributed £31,753, as under:—

	Amount.
Colonial contribution	£ 24,750
Adjusting balance for 1899	4,062
Payment in lieu of exemption from Customs Duty ...	2,941
Total	£31,753

X.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The general condition of the Colony from the financial point of view may be described as sounder than it has been for several years. The banks are overstocked with coin, and have more money than they can invest safely and profitably. They have reduced their rate of interest on fixed deposits, and money may be said to be "easy." The planters and estate owners have reduced their mortgages and invested considerable sums in the improvement of their machinery.

In view of the foregoing statement it may seem like a contradiction to say that the chronic disease of the Mauritian community is poverty. Nevertheless, the statement is true. For although the planters are prosperous as compared with their condition in recent years, it must be remembered that the planters form only a small section of the population, and that the poverty of the general population does not affect them, except in so far as it tends to keep down the price of labour. The creole population, who form a third of the whole population, are poor, and are becoming poorer.

They are disinclined to undertake field work, and the market for writers or clerks is overstocked. In the labour market they have to face Indian and Chinese competition, and they lack the enterprise and energy of the purely Asiatic races. It can hardly be doubted that the competition of the Asiatics must be keener as time goes on, and that the creole population, especially those of mixed blood, must find the struggle for existence press more heavily on them. Even amongst the families of pure European blood there are many in very humble employments, and were it not for the strong family affection, and abundant family charity, it is to be feared that many women of pure European blood, and of European culture, would be put to great straits to secure the barest necessities of life.

The malarial fever and other diseases which are so common in Mauritius tend to still further debilitate the creole population, and this is especially the case amongst those whose means do not permit of proper diet and sanitary conditions of life.

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1900.

The sickness and poverty combined work in a vicious circle, for as poverty predisposes to illness, so disease often begets poverty. Poverty is one of the main predisposing causes of plague, malaria, tuberculosis, dysentery, and debility. These in their turn hamper industry and promote poverty.

The great need, therefore, is sanitary reform. A reform which by lessening the sickness may foster the conditions under which industry is alone possible, and the question of sanitation has received, and is receiving, the earnest consideration of the Government.

It is to be hoped that the development of South Africa may furnish a field for emigration to a country possessing a healthier climate and more favourable opportunities, but at present the energy and enterprise which spur a people to emigration seem to be lacking.

It can hardly fail to happen that this spur will be furnished by hard necessity, and, when that time comes, South Africa will be enriched by the presence of an interesting and cultured population, bringing with them the traditions of an old civilisation as well as the manners of a people which still boasts itself the politest nation in Europe.

Such an emigration can hardly fail to be beneficial, both to the emigrants and to the country that receives them, whilst it will relieve Mauritius of a serious social problem, *i.e.*, the conflict of the European and the Asiatic civilisation in the poorer classes of the population.

This conflict of two civilisations can hardly fail to raise important questions in the future. Already the Indian population outnumber the Creole population by more than two to one, yet the important social questions relating to marriage, inheritance, &c., are governed by French, not by Indian, law.

As the disproportion becomes more apparent, the anomaly by which the laws of the minority is imposed on the majority will become more manifest, and the Government of Mauritius may have to face problems which will require the gravest and the most anxious consideration.

GRAHAM BOWER,

Colonial Secretary.

19th July, 1901.

MAURITIUS
AND
RODRIGUES,
1900.

RODRIGUES.

Rodrigues is a dependency of Mauritius with a population of 3,163 souls, composed of 1,746 males and 1,417 females.

The climate is, on the whole, healthy, and the causes of death are registered as rheumatism, dysentery, bronchitis, influenza, old age, cramps, dropsy, and diarrhoea.

Almost the whole population is of African descent.

The highest temperature was 88°, on 31st January, at 3 p.m.
The lowest temperature was 68·6°, on 27th August, at 9 a.m.

The heaviest rainfall was in February.

The Revenue was	...	...	...	Rs. 19,601.80
The Expenditure was	...	...	...	25,357.53
Showing a deficit of	...	...	...	<u>5,755.73</u>

Rodrigues is likely to become more important in the future as it has been chosen as a station for the telegraph cable connecting South Africa and Mauritius with Australia. It is expected that this cable will be laid before the close of the current year, 1901, and, apart from its commercial and strategical importance, it will afford valuable meteorological information to Mauritius, especially during the hurricane months.

GRAHAM BOWER,
Colonial Secretary.

19th July, 1901.

LONDON:
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By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.
1901.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 346.

NORTHERN NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1900,
TO 31ST MARCH, 1901,

BY THE

HIGH COMMISSIONER OF NORTHERN NIGERIA,
BRIGADIER-GENERAL SIR F. LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1902.



LONDON.
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By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

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1902.

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No.	Colony.	Year.
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10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
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18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.

No. 346.

NORTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900-1901.

NORTHERN NIGERIA.

(Report for period from 1st January, 1900, to 31st March, 1901.)

London, 1st May, 1901.

Arriving at the end of December, 1899, I took over the ad- ministration from the Royal Niger Company, and the Union Ceremony of transfer. Flag was hoisted in place of the Company's, at 7.20 a.m., at Lokoja, on January 1st, 1900, in presence of a parade of all arms, at which all civilians were present in uniform.

My first task was to take over the Royal Niger Constabulary and to incorporate them in the West African Frontier Force, with the exception of 300 serving in Southern Nigeria. That Protectorate required about 160 more to complete its strength, and I was able to obtain this number of willing volunteers through the influence of Major Burdon, their late Commander. I also called for volunteers for the Gold Coast, but without success. Fifty of the men were detailed for Civil Police, and after the selection of these, and the discharge of a certain number who were time-expired and of a few who were not considered to be useful soldiers, there remained sufficient for incorporation in the West African Frontier Force to bring the establishment to full strength, for the first time since the force was raised. A few senior non-commissioned officers remained in excess, but these could not be discharged without a breach of contract and were gradually absorbed. Matters connected with the deferred pay, armament, and clothing of the men transferred, occupied some time, but everything was satisfactorily accomplished by the indefatigable work of Colonel (now Sir James) Willcocks and Lieutenant-Colonel Cole. The re-distribution of the garrisons

Incorporation of Royal Niger Constabulary.

NORTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900-1901.
—
Preventive
service.

throughout the Protectorate was immediately arranged, and I detailed two companies to form a preventive service on the south frontier, from the Niger to Borgu, whence to the French frontier the garrisons in Borgu would continue the line. The outbreak in Ashanti, unfortunately, compelled me to withdraw these troops during the greater part of the year. A certain amount of liquor continues to be smuggled into Northern Nigeria, but so far as I can ascertain it is small and chiefly enters by canoes along the Niger waterway from Southern Nigeria. The raising of the duties in Lagos has, no doubt, had a great effect in decreasing the liquor traffic, and while the revenue from spirits has, I am informed (by the Governor of Lagos), suffered no diminution, and an increase of £5,000 is anticipated next year (in consequence of the consumption of existing stocks), the import has decreased by at least a third. The result is, naturally, especially felt in the towns furthest from the coast, and Sir William MacGregor informs me that little or no liquor is to be found in the frontier villages. I am unable to give any statistics, owing to the withdrawal of the preventive service for Ashanti.

Company's
depôts.

I immediately took steps to survey the commercial stations and waterside depôts assigned under the terms of the transfer to the new Niger Company, and with the exception of Liaba (unoccupied) and of the three small depôts beyond Ibi, on the Benué, which I have not found time to visit, these stations have been accurately surveyed, and agreements drawn up, which have been approved.

Surveys
north of
the Niger.

In accordance with the views which I had submitted to the Secretary of State, I lost no time in sending out survey parties to examine the country lying to the north of the Niger, between the river Kaduna and the eastern highlands of Bautshi. Mr. Wallace informs me that representatives of the tribes of these parts (in whose country the new administrative centre will be) had come with presents, in 1899, asking for protection, and eager to welcome Europeans. Lieutenant-Colonel Morland took charge of one party, with a powerful fighting force in case of difficulties with the Emirs of Bida, Kontagora, and Zaria. His instructions were to survey the course of the Kaduna as far as Ghierko, together with the country to the east towards the Gurara river. Lieutenant Monck-Mason proceeded with a smaller party up the Gurara, and Lieutenant-Colonel Cole undertook the survey of the Okwa river. These parties were instructed to avoid all hostilities, and to make every effort to win the confidence of the peoples whose territories were traversed; full reports on the economic and geographical conditions were to be submitted, and they would especially look out for an advantageous site for the establishment of the future administrative centre; they would unite in the neighbourhood of Ghierko, and if time permitted would then make a further survey towards Bautshi. Excellent

work was done, and much topographical information was obtained which will be invaluable in correcting existing maps. Early in May, Colonel Willcocks, commandant, and Lieutenant-Colonel Kemball, second in command, left headquarters to join the survey parties, which had, by that time, all reached Ghierko. The former was recalled for the Ashanti campaign, but Colonel Kemball joined the survey and brought the combined parties back. Some opposition was met with by Lieutenant Monck-Mason, who found himself compelled to fight the intractable tribes near Chikara, who had attacked him without provocation, and Lieutenant-Colonel Cole was also compelled to reduce the large pagan town of Limu (near Ghierko), whose inhabitants had kidnapped one of our carriers and refused to render him up. These operations, in which Colonel Cole, Major Bryan, Captain Abadie, Lieutenant Symonds, Sergeant Heffernan, R.A., and Colour-Sergeant Moran were wounded, were very ably and successfully carried through, and have been fully reported. The tribes concerned were those who make a practice of attacking all caravans, and closing the trade routes, and their defeat tended to open up the routes to the interior.

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NIGERIA,
1900-1901.

Meanwhile, the late Mr. Carnegie had done some admirable survey work in the Illorin district, and Major Burdon had produced some valuable sketches in the Lower Benué province, while other survey work by political and military officers had been sent in from various parts of the Protectorate, and this, with all later additions will, I hope, form material for much improvement in the map of the country. Lieutenant-Colonel Cole, Captain Abadie, and Captain Molesworth (who accompanied Colonel Kemball), have done especially good work

Other sur-
veys.

On my arrival, I found that the telegraph line under construction from Lokoja to Ibi, on the Benué, had been arrested by the hostility of the Munshi tribes, with whom the telegraph escort was engaged in fighting. A strong expedition, under Lieutenant-Colonel Cole, was at once organised, and by the end of March the Munshi country, to the north of the Benué, had been traversed by our troops, and severe loss inflicted on the tribe in a series of engagements. These people use poisoned arrows of a very deadly kind, and are a constant source of trouble, firing at canoes proceeding up the river, and defying authority in the dense forest and undergrowth which cover their country. The principal chiefs made submission, but the season was already too far advanced to admit of the extension of the telegraph beyond Akwaneja, on the borders of Munshiland, 100 miles from the Niger. The staff employed had already completed their period of service, and the medical authorities deprecated their stay during another rainy season in the unhealthy swamps and forests of the Munshi country. The lines completed, therefore, are: (1) that from the Lagos frontier to Jebba (connecting with Lagos), and (2) thence to Lokoja, together with the extension from Lokoja to Akwaneja. Subsequently the

Telegraph
construc-
tion.

NORTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900-1901.

linesmen of the maintenance party cleared a line, southwards, along the Niger bank for some 25 miles, and poles have been erected along this for 15 miles. The lines now urgently required are, therefore, as follows:—(a) The completion of the Lokoja-Ibi line, which I propose to carry further to the north of the Benué so as to avoid the Munshi country. (b) A line to connect the new site with the Niger, and to be continued through Kontagora to Illo.

Lokoja.

I had expressed (in former despatches) my strong conviction that Lokoja should be abandoned as an European settlement, and a site further down the river selected, where the sewage of the native town would not vitiate the water supply, where a healthier situation might be found, and the rocks, which have caused the wreck of so many steamers at Lokoja, avoided. It was for this reason I had selected Quendon (25 miles down river), as the site for the workshops, and I had proposed to myself to make the new settlement not far from it. The collapse of the Public Works Department and the delay in the arrival of a capable Director, however, frustrated my plans. I was compelled, moreover, to put up a bungalow at Lokoja, as a shelter for new arrivals, and gradually the possibility of a transfer ceased to be practicable. I found, also, that the ridge (a mile from the town) occupied by the troops, had proved very healthy, and a fine polo ground had been made. I therefore laid out a cantonment, and Mr. Eaglesome commenced to erect the houses of the civil staff on a spur parallel to that occupied by the military lines. This work has, under his able and energetic control, advanced rapidly. Four bungalows and two small public offices are completed, and a fifth bungalow is in course of erection, as well as a masonry gaol and magazine. A market place, clerks' houses, storehouses, &c., &c., are also in course of completion. I attach a tracing of the plan of the cantonment, from which it will be seen that it is in the general form of a horse-shoe, between which and the river lie the houses of the native clerks and artisans, the market, storehouses and engineering yard, &c. All the houses are on high ground and built so as to catch the prevailing breeze. The rank grass and pools enclosed in this area require to be cleared away, and the whole place made sanitary, and for this purpose a considerable expenditure will be necessary in the coming year. I have it in contemplation to gradually move the native town six or seven miles down stream, and so to do away with the pollution of the water, and with other evils such as the proximity of a haven for thieves and prostitutes, the infection of mosquitoes with malarial germs, and the insanitary conditions inevitable around a large native town. I have already taken steps to this end. It will also, probably, be necessary to transfer the workshops to Lokoja—they are too distant at Quendon under this new scheme, but by doing this gradually I hope to incur but

Lokoja
cantonment.

C.O. 195

little expense. On transfer of the administrative headquarters, one or two houses will be left at Jebba for the military detachment, and barracks for one company, West African Frontier Force, require to be erected. A small subsidiary gaol will also be built, for which bricks are now ready, and construction will begin at once.

NORTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900-1901.

Jebba.

No steps have, as yet, been taken to provide suitable housing for Europeans at out-stations, and this will require attention as soon as more pressing matters admit of it. Meanwhile, officers and others occupy well-made huts of native construction.

Out stations.

Much difficulty has been experienced in the housing of the Civil Staff, but since the arrival of Mr. Eaglesome, Director of Public Works, in November, 1900, much progress has been made. More houses are, however, required, and the very temporary and small huts for the British officers and non-commissioned officers of the West African Frontier Force must be replaced by a better and healthier class. They have already lasted the period they were expected to last.

Housing.

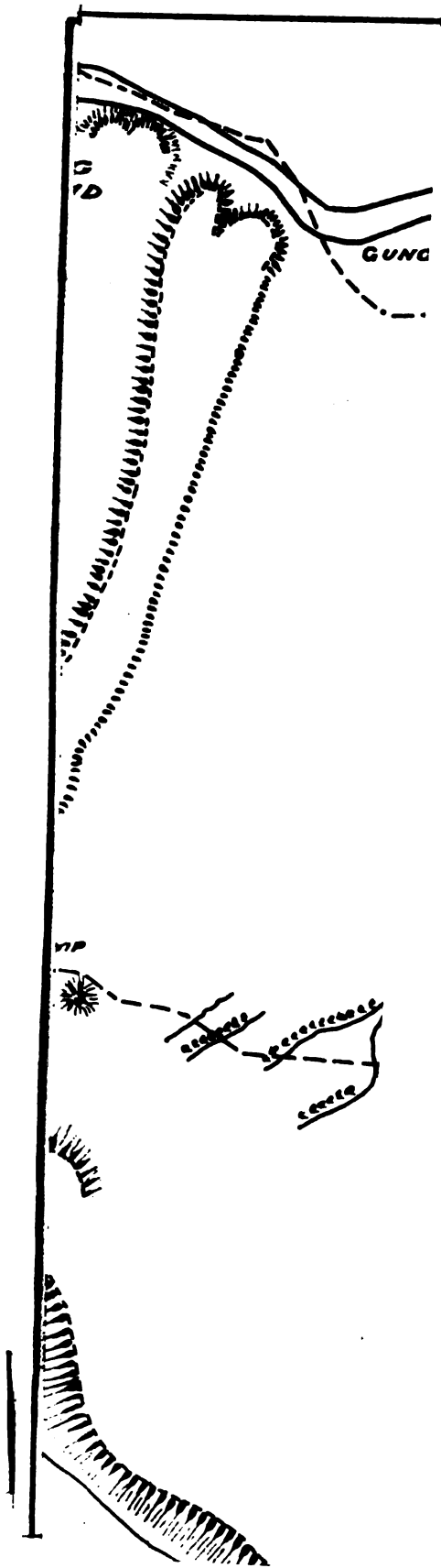
The reports of the survey parties were received in July or August. A very careful consideration of these led me to the conclusion that, with my present resources, it was impracticable to establish headquarters in the Eastern highlands. No river gives access in that direction to the interior. The Gurara is hopelessly tortuous, and navigation is interrupted by rapids, at a point not more than 30 miles direct from the Niger. In the rains the current is so strong that a steamer can hardly make head against it: in the dry season it is no longer navigable. The Okwa is only navigable a short way, and for a short period. But the greatest difficulty lies in the fact that the surveys did not disclose any practicable means of negotiating the steep gradient by which the higher lands fall to the Niger valley. The trend of the Niger south-east from Jebba to Lokoja, also renders the distance from its waterway to any central and feasible site in the eastern highlands much greater than in the west. The neighbourhood of Wushishi, on the other hand, is accessible by the waterway of the Kaduna, which from that point runs due south in a very straight course, and which is navigable (with no strong current) for some four months for large steamers, and practically throughout the year for canoes, as far as Gwari Juko (eight miles below Wushishi). Compelled to decide at once, I selected this position, and, taking advantage of the Kaduna flood in July, August, and September, I pushed forward the wooden houses sent out for erection, and landed them at Wushishi. The outbreak of the Ashanti war left me for the time unable to protect the waterway of the Kaduna from the aggression of Kontagora and Bida, and for some months communication was much interrupted. Nothing could be done towards selecting the actual site of cantonments until after the settlement of the Kontagora-Bida

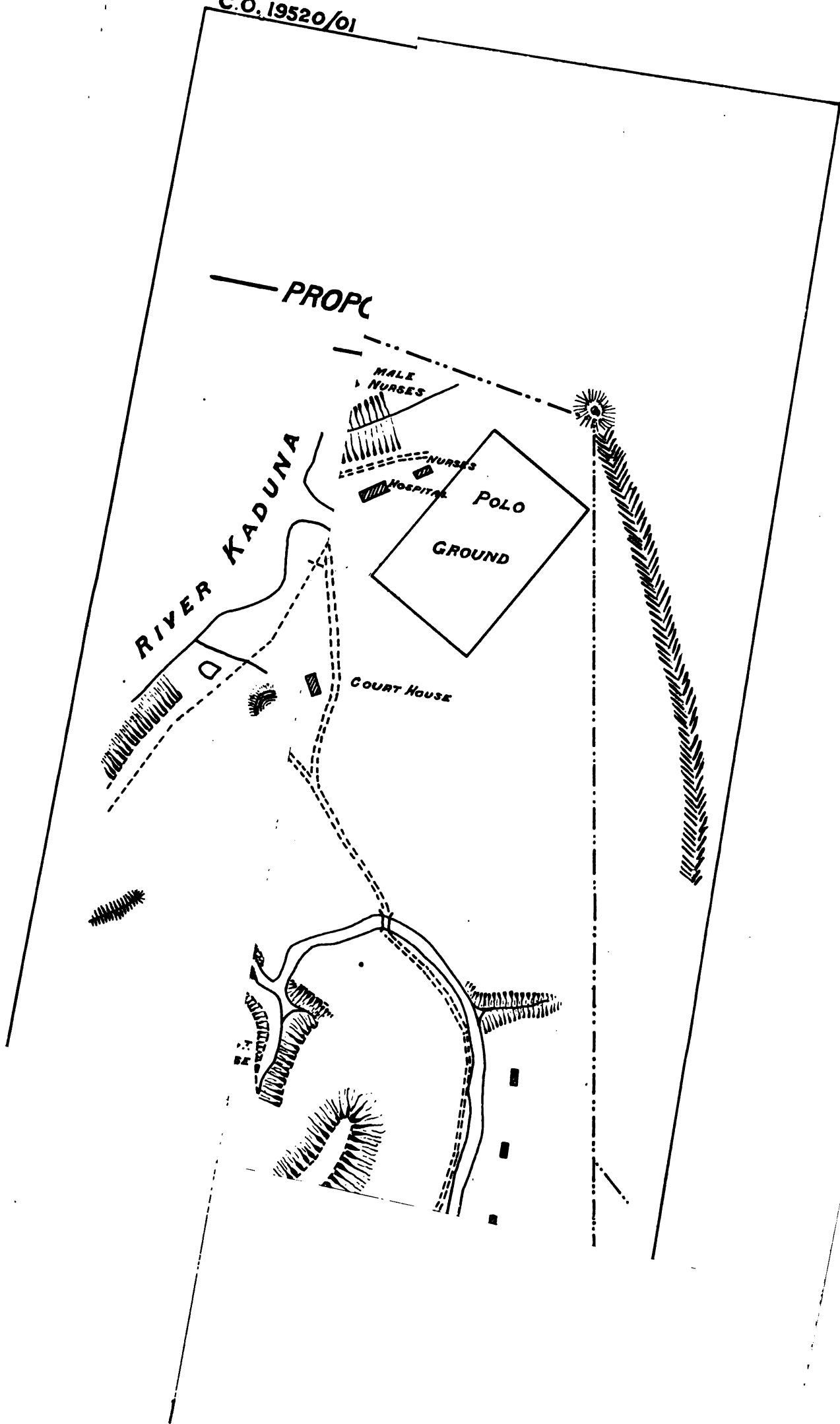
Selection of
new head-
quarters.

NORTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900-1901.

trouble (on the return of the troops from Ashanti), but as soon as this had been accomplished I proceeded at once (on February 19, 1901) to Wushishi, accompanied by Dr. Langley (Acting Principal Medical Officer), Mr. Eaglesome (Director of Public Works), Mr. Scott (Surveyor), and Captain Abadie. Following the course of the Kaduna we found that the river lay in a deep valley. Its bed consisted of gneiss boulders, and at this (the driest) season was broken into a series of clear streams and waterfalls, connecting stretches of deep blue pools. About 10 miles beyond Wushishi the country became very difficult for the construction of a surface tram line. Spurs run down to the river, separated by deep depressions, and the country becomes more and more broken beyond Jimu. We followed round the right-angle bend of the river as far as Makakai, and I then struck due south to ascertain if it were possible to construct a line across from Wushishi.* A fairly level undulating plateau of considerable height extends around Mykunkerri, but is enclosed to westward by a semicircular range of hills. From this point Messrs. Eaglesome and Scott went across to Wushishi to thoroughly examine the intervening country. Briefly, their report was to the effect that the country was difficult, that they had discovered a tortuous gap in the hills, through which probably the tramway could be brought, but that its cost would be very heavy (40 miles), and its construction would take an additional year. There could be no hope of making a move to the new headquarters before the autumn of 1903, and it was probable that the line would be seriously damaged each rains, its up-keep, therefore, involving a heavy annual expenditure. Meanwhile, the materials at Wushishi, already deteriorating rapidly, would have become practically useless, for until the tramway is constructed they cannot be conveyed to the site. I considered it impracticable to go on living, as it were, from hand to mouth, with the temporary expedients I had hitherto employed at Jebba, for two more years. Offices and dwelling-houses must be erected at Jebba, unless the move was to be undertaken in the near future. Not only would these buildings have shortly to be abandoned again, but their erection would occupy my small staff to the further delay of the permanent constructions at the new site. Finally, I was unwilling to recommend this heavy expenditure on a line which, after increased knowledge of the country, might, after all, prove to be by no means the best, and on a site which we might afterwards find to be surpassed in situation and feasibility of access. In order, however, that we might thoroughly prove our conclusions, I determined to strike across to the Kaduna, meeting it at the point at which the difficult country had commenced, thus traversing the diagonal of the circle whose circumference we had traced. It proved, not merely impracticable for a railway, but most difficult to cross at all. Endless hills, separated by deep gorges and valleys, and formed of quartzite rock, offered

* See map attached.





an interminable vista on every horizon. The drainage of this barren and inhospitable land was conveyed in several beautiful streams to one main channel, and I conceived that somewhere near the junction of this stream with the Kaduna, I might find a site which would offer some of the advantages I sought. I was anxious that the cantonment should be on both sides of a stream, rather than that it should consist of one long river frontage, involving great distances between the various houses and offices, and consequent delay in work, and exposure to the sun in getting from place to place. Moreover, by building on a tributary stream, I should evade the deep bed of the Kaduna, and every yard inland would add to the elevation, owing to the rapid fall of the ground. We selected a place which offered many advantages. It is about a mile from the Kaduna, and the exceedingly tortuous channel of the stream enables us to so arrange the houses that all have access to it within 200 or 300 yards, at most. In the dry season the stream can hardly be said to flow, but long reaches of deep, clear water, full of large fish, guarantee an ample and good water supply, while at a very little expenditure of work and money, the stream (which offers natural facilities for such operations) can be dammed so as to form a reservoir, and thus converted into a running river all the year round. There is, also, every prospect of our being able to find water by well sinking. The ground offers excellent sites for houses on knolls and ridges, and the intervening ground contains soil in which gardens can be made and trees planted. There is abundance of fuel around, and some fine trees on the site. Its distance from the Kaduna will, I hope, be great enough to free it from the mosquitoes (mostly of the anopheles genus) which infest that valley, and when the stream has been dammed it will be easy to abolish all pools in which these insects can breed. It is nine miles north of Wushishi. I could have wished that it had been a greater distance from the low-lying bed of the navigable Kaduna (at and below Wushishi) and its surrounding marshes, but the prevailing wind is, I believe, from the opposite direction, and, as I have explained, our efforts to find a site further away were unavailing. These nine miles can be covered by a steam tramway without any engineering difficulty whatever.

NORTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900-1901.

Having selected the site, I made, in consultation with the Director of Public Works, the Principal Medical Officer, and Captain Abadie, a rough plan of the way in which I propose to lay it out, and I enclose a tracing showing the sites upon which the various buildings will be erected. The dwelling-houses (including Government House), both civil and military, available for erection, are 21 in number, and there is, in addition, a hospital. I propose to build the public offices, court house, gaol, and magazine, of bricks made on the spot. Some more dwelling-houses will be required, but the number already available will, I trust, enable us to move up from Jebba in July of next year,

NORTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900-1901.

if there is no delay in shipping the material for the tramway, and other requisites. The Director of Public Works returns, at once, to make the location of the line, and to begin upon the construction of the permanent way. This construction opens the work of the new (financial) year. I had left Bida on February 19. The examination of the ground was completed and the site selected by March 13th. On 18th I left, and marching rapidly via Bida, I reached the Niger (which I had left on February 11th) on March 21st. (I may add here that, having completed my work first at Jebba and then at Lokoja, I met Sir R. Moor at Forcados, on April 4th, and reached Lagos, with him, the following day, in order to confer with the Governor, Sir W. Macgregor, on various matters in accordance with instructions.)

Public
works,
general.

The abolition of the special staff for the erection of the houses, and the assumption of this task by the permanent Public Works Department, together with the other circumstances I have described, have rendered it impossible to carry out several urgent works which I had proposed to undertake. Among these are the proper sanitation and drainage of Lokoja, the construction of roads—more especially the extension of the Lagos road from the frontier to the Niger, and the improvement of the channel of the Niger by the removal of a few of the rocks and snags. These works are all urgent and must receive attention during the coming year. In addition, a road is required to connect Bida on the one hand, and Kontagora on the other, with the new headquarters. The native chiefs in Borgu, and also on the Upper Benué (under Mr. Hewby's excellent influence), have done something in the way of road making and opening up communication in their districts.

The past year has, of course, been one of initial organisation in the Administrative Departments. I regret that this is not yet as complete as I should have wished to have left it, but the inadequate staff has hampered my efforts, and thrown upon me, personally, so much detail work that I have been unable to accomplish as much in other directions as I otherwise might have done.

Political.
Provinces
and Resi-
dents.

That portion of the Protectorate of which we are in effective occupation has been divided into nine provinces, viz., (1) Illorin; (2) Kabba; (3) Middle Niger; (4) Lower Benué; (5) Upper Benué; (6) Nupé; (7) Kontagora; (8) Borgu; (9) Zaria. Additional provinces, which should be taken in hand as soon as possible, are (10) Bassa; (11) Muri (who would welcome us); (12) Bautshi; and (13) Yola. I have already emphasised the advantage of opening up these eastern territories without delay, mainly on the ground of their supposed salubrity and mineral wealth. The necessity of checking the rapid depopulation by organised slave-raiding in the eastern states, and of dealing with the problems offered by the advent of the French on Lake Chad,

and the arrival of Fad-el-Allah in British territory, are additional reasons. Though these provinces are far distant from Lake Chad, they will afford a base from which we can, to some extent, keep in touch with events in the north. The advent of Fad-el-Allah (son and successor of Rabeh) presents a problem which demands immediate attention. Either he must be attacked and driven out, or assigned a district in which to settle on terms of friendship. If matters are left to drift, the whole of this part of the country will become a cockpit of war, and will be depopulated and ruined. The destruction of the great town of Guaram, by Bautshi, early last year, when several thousand persons are reported to have been massacred or enslaved, proves the urgent need for the assertion of our power and the introduction of the Pax Britannica. When the new organisation, proposed in my estimates, comes into force, and there are two political officers actually in the country in each province, the "Middle Niger" can be abolished, leaving 12 provinces, for which 36 officers (including those on leave) are absolutely necessary.

NORTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900-1901.

Throughout the Protectorate, but especially in the southern provinces, the crime of extortion or personation is very prevalent. A man wearing a fez and a pair of trousers comes to a village and announces that he has been sent by the white men. He may remain there for months, levying blackmail from the ignorant natives. He will often not content himself with demanding horses, cattle, fowls, and grain (sometimes in large quantities), but by threats that he will bring against the people some serious charge which (he informs them) will result in their extermination by the forces of the Protectorate, he may terrorise them into yielding to him their wives and daughters. The uncomplaining acquiescence of the people, and their extraordinary credulity encourage this form of crime. It can only be checked by political officers constantly patrolling their districts, and informing the people, arresting such criminals, and thoroughly enquiring into all complaints of alleged raiding, &c., to ascertain that they are not false accusations, before taking any measures of repression against the alleged raiders. It is my conviction that throughout Africa—East and West—much injustice and oppression has been unwittingly done by our forces acting on crude information, and accusations of slave-raiding, &c., brought by enemies of the accused to procure their destruction. Patient and unwearying investigation by properly trained political officers with good interpreters, is the only way of checking both these forms of oppression, and it is for this reason that I urge so strongly that the Political Department should consist of able and experienced men, and that the staff should be maintained at an adequate strength. Native courts, under the supervision of residents, are gradually being formed. Mr. Hewby, in the Upper Benué province, has been especially successful, and has set up a native court in most of the larger

Personation.

Upper
Benué.

NORTHERN NIGERIA, 1900-1901.	towns of his province. He receives regular reports of the cases tried, and informs me that very fair justice is done. The Assistant Resident in Illorin assures me that the public slave market there is now a thing of the past, and that great improvement is visible in the methods of trial, and the sentences inflicted by the new native court. There was much unrest in this province during the absence of the troops, but I hope that substantial progress is being made. Borgu has improved greatly during our occupation. The able chief, Kiama, is making roads in every direction, which he frequently superintends himself. The small patch of country on the east of the Niger, in the neighbourhood of the Dalul Mauri, has recently been occupied by troops, a course rendered necessary by French aggression, and the raids of the Fulani from Raha. I have instructed the Officer Commanding to punish the latter. There is no resident in the Bassa province, which, I am informed, is a very important one from a trade point of view, and the people have expressed great eagerness for a white man to live among them and settle their differences without recourse to inter-tribal warfare. The deficiency of staff has, however, prevented my taking this district in hand and assuring the safety of the roads for traders. Mr. Carnegie was appointed to this district, but his sad death occurred before he could actually visit it, though he had already done much, and given pledges to the chiefs who visited him in Lokoja. The Zaria district belongs rather to the coming than to the past year. It contains many large pagan towns, from which I hope to obtain a cheap labour supply for work on the new cantonments, and I am using every effort to avoid the introduction into this new centre of the preposterous labour rates which have obtained on the Niger and which hamper all development and progress. In the Lower Benué Major Burdon and (later) Dr. Cargill have made some progress in cultivating the friendship of the Munshi tribe, and also with the Fulani sub-emirate of Nassarawa and Keffi. Slave-raiding by the Mohammedan chiefs still continues, and produces continual unrest among the neighbouring pagan tribes, with the usual reprisals and closing of trade routes. I anticipate that this will cease without any recourse to drastic measures, as soon as I can place a small garrison at Nassarawa and establish the Resident there, but the telegraph line must first be made. The trade routes to the lower Benué will then be free from danger.
Illorin.	
Borgu.	
Bassa	
Zaria.	
Lower Benué.	
Sokoto and Gando.	Pending the establishment of the new headquarters, I have not attempted to open up any relations with the distant Fulani emirates in the north. They still remain great centres of the slave-trade, as do also Yola and Bautshi, in the east. There is, probably, no part of the "Dark Continent" in which the worst forms of slave raiding still exist to so terrible an extent, and are prosecuted on so large and systematic a scale as in the British Protectorate of Northern Nigeria. Each year, as the grass dries up, armies take the field to collect slaves. Nor are
Slave raid- ing.	

they even provident of their hunting grounds, for those who are useless as slaves are killed in large numbers, the villages burnt, and the fugitives left to starve in the bush. The first great step to check this evil was taken by the Royal Niger Company in 1897, when, after the defeat of Bida, they severed from the rule of that emir all the territories south of the Niger (Kabba province). The relief came almost too late, for the country is depopulated, and hundreds of ruins attest the former existence of a population and a prosperity which have gone. Deprived of their hunting grounds, and anticipating the advent of European control, with its prohibition of slave-raiding, the Fulani and Nupés began early in the year to ravage the districts nearer home, and, with Kontagora the "Gwamachi" (destroyer), who bears the title of "King of the Sudan," laid waste the country from the Niger banks, on the west and south to the eastern highlands, and to the north as far as the borders of Sokoto and Zaria. At the beginning of July, information reached me that they had planned a combined attack on our small garrison at Wushishi, and I hurried thither myself with reinforcements, under Major O'Neill, R.A. The headmen of Wushishi itself were secretly murdered, and outrages on our soldiers within a few yards of the camp followed. Meanwhile, the two armies raided for slaves almost to the very banks of the Niger, and close to Jebba, while messages were sent to persuade Illorin to join in a rising, and to expel the white men, whose troops (it was said) had been exterminated in Ashanti. The people began to desert Wushishi, and the absolute necessity for obtaining supplies for our troops, and of protecting the villages which had shown us friendship, compelled me to instruct Major O'Neill to place small forts in neighbouring villages and to patrol the country. This task he performed most ably and with great dash, defeating the horsemen of Kontagora and Bida in a series of skirmishes and occupying the country for some 20 miles south and east of Wushishi. Great loss was inflicted on the slave raiders, and thousands of refugees crowded the protected villages for safety, while his handful of men had hardly any casualties. Mr. Dwyer, meanwhile, managed with much tact and pluck to keep things fairly quiet in Illorin, where he had succeeded Mr. Carnegie, an officer of exceptional promise, whose sad death was a very great loss to the Protectorate. In November, I directed Major O'Neill to endeavour to clear the waterway of the Kaduna. With a small force, ably assisted by Lieutenant Porter, he defeated a band of Kontagora's levies at Daba, and, crossing the river, he met and dispersed the gatherings of the Bida horsemen, and on December 19th pursued them to the walls of the town. With great gallantry he entered the city with only 30 men, and endeavoured to arrest the Emir with his own hand. He exposed his small party, however, to a most imminent risk of extermination, and only escaped, himself badly wounded, by the greatest good fortune. On the return of the troops from Ashanti at the end

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NIGERIA,
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Kabba.

Nupé and
Kontagora.

Operations
in 1900.

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**Defeat of
Kontagora.**

of December, I immediately gave orders for an expedition to be organised against Kontagora. Colonel Kemball, Acting Commandant of the West African Frontier Force, himself took command, and in the middle of January marched north with a strong force to Ngaski along the Niger bank. There he met Lieutenant Keyes, with a detachment from the Illo garrison. The combined force marched on Kontagora, keeping to the north of the town to prevent the escape of the chief towards Sokoto. The town was captured, and the enemy defeated, with the loss of one man on our side, while the Fulani horsemen suffered very heavily. Colonel Kemball despatched two strong parties in pursuit of the flying chief, and these compelled him to abandon all his slaves and retinue, and he only escaped with a handful of followers. The town was saved from constant attempts at incendiarism, by great efforts, during the night. A company was left as garrison, and the force marched to the Kaduna, meeting with demonstrations from the villagers, who were overjoyed at the fall of the "Gwamachi." On their upward march the troops had passed through an absolutely depopulated country.

**Deposition
of Emir
of Bida.**

On February 9th, at Egbaji, I met Mr. Wallace (who had just arrived from England) and Mr. Watts of the Niger Company, who for years has been an intimate friend of the Bida chiefs and who speaks Nupé. I had sent messengers to the Emir and all the principal chiefs of Bida to meet me there, but only the Markun's party arrived. This man was appointed Emir by the Company, after the defeat of Bida in 1897, but the ex-Emir, Abu Bakri, had returned and ousted the Markun, and had since been recognised as Emir by the Company. I sent further messages to tell Abu Bakri to meet me on the Kaduna, whither I was proceeding, and assuring him that, no matter what the result of the interview, his return, in safety, would be guaranteed. Again, only the Markun's party met me. Colonel Kemball and his troops joined me here, and we marched on Bida prepared, if necessary, to fight. I had, however, assured the chiefs that not a shot would be fired unless I was attacked, but that all who attempted flight would be treated as enemies. Abu Bakri I could no longer recognise as Emir, but, if he would yet meet me at Bida, I would arrange to provide for his future in comfort. He, however, elected to fly, and was pursued for a great distance by troops sent to watch the rear of the town, towards Lapai. He barely escaped, with six followers only, while several important chiefs were wounded and captured. They were liberated later, after their wounds had been treated. The troops marched through the town in a long procession, and formed a hollow square in front of the Markun's "palace," where I proclaimed him Emir before the assembled people. Following the custom in British India I gave him "a letter of appointment," containing the conditions on which he held the emirate. These, briefly, were, that he should rule justly and in accordance with the laws of the Protectorate, that he should obey the High Commissioner, and be guided by the advice of

**Appoint-
ment of
new Emir.**

the Resident; that minerals and waste lands should be the property of the Crown. In the case of Kontagora, I wrote to the Emir of Sokoto, asking him to nominate a successor, and explaining the reason why I had deposed the chief. He will receive a similar letter of appointment. The broad principles achieved may be thus summarised. Two of the most powerful of the Fulani Emirs have been deposed, because, after repeated warnings, they would not desist from laying waste the whole country and carrying off the people as slaves. Both the fine cities, which were the Fulani capitals, have been preserved from destruction. The loss of life has been confined almost entirely to the Fulani horsemen, viz., to the slave-raiders themselves, and they have suffered heavily, while the peasantry and slaves have suffered little. The Emirs themselves have been pursued with such energy that they abandoned everything, and reached Zaria, or elsewhere, in so miserable a plight that the effect will be very far-reaching indeed, and will not admit of the usual misrepresentation. The Fulani rule has been maintained as an experiment, for I am anxious to prove to these people that we have no hostility to them, and only insist on good government and justice, and I am anxious to utilize, if possible, their wonderful intelligence, for they are born rulers, and incomparably above the negroid tribes in ability. It was with this object that I invited Sokoto to nominate a new Emir for Kontagora, and I have hopes that the effect of such a message may lead to a better understanding between us and the Mohammedan rulers. The defeat of these chiefs has—again almost too late—checked the great organised slave raids towards the Niger. There still remain the great slave raiders in the east—Yola and Bautshi—and I propose this year to open up the trade routes in that direction. Meanwhile, the new provinces thus acquired urgently need political officers. Already, with the removal of the fear of the Fulani, each petty village is claiming its ancient lands, or raiding those of its weaker neighbour, and interminable feuds are the result. I greatly desire to properly survey the country, and make a rough land settlement, which it will be the duty of the new Emirs, under the supervision of the Resident, to enforce, and so to put a stop to this unrest.

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I have found that there is a considerable export of slave children. These, when liberated, become "children of the State," and it is not an easy problem what to do with them. The custom of giving them to "respectable families" as wards is, in my view, most pernicious. Mohammedans can see no difference, nor can I, between this destination and their intended disposal, except that the recipients get them without payment. Some of the boys I have apprenticed to the workshops, &c., and two of the older girls have become servants to the nursing sisters, where I wish them to learn hospital nursing. The younger ones, I propose to place in a Freed Slave Home; where they will receive some elementary education. Freed women can

Slave dealing.

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also temporarily live there, as in the home at Cairo, until they can be repatriated or marry. In their case still more than in that of children I deplore the system of giving them as wives, or concubines, to soldiers or others or turning them adrift in a native town. I would compel no adult to remain in it against her will, and there should be no compulsory religious training.

Legislation.

Seventeen legislative proclamations have been enacted during the year 1900, and seven during the first quarter of 1901, while ten or twelve are still awaiting His Majesty's approval. Of those enacted the more important are:—

(1.) *The Courts Proclamation*, setting up a Supreme and Provincial Court. The appointment of a Chief Justice in September last has necessitated a revision of this Proclamation, and a draft of a new Supreme Court Ordinance has already been submitted. Generally speaking the system I have inaugurated is as follows. The Supreme Court will have original and appellate jurisdiction over all non-natives and in all cantonments. Judges of inferior Courts are Commissioners of the Supreme Court within its jurisdiction. In the provinces, which are separated by such vast distances that the Supreme Court could not act effectively, the residents have a jurisdiction (co-existent with the Native Courts) over natives, limited only by the necessity for confirmation by the High Commissioner of all serious sentences. Their cause lists operate as appeals, and the High Commissioner, advised by his legal adviser, can refer any case to the Supreme Court. In practice, where it is possible to set up a Native Court, that tribunal would deal with most cases of ordinary crime by natives, and with native civil actions, but crimes against specific laws of the Protectorate, such as those triable under the "Slavery," "Liquor," "Firearms," and "Personation" Proclamations, being foreign to native law and custom, would usually be dwelt with by the Provincial Courts. The Supreme Court administers strict law; Provincial Courts administer English law, modified by native law and custom. The administration of justice by Residents is frequently intimately associated with their political and executive functions, and their cause lists, therefore, are submitted to the Head of the Executive, the High Commissioner, advised by his legal adviser. In practice I am convinced that this system produces better results than would be obtained by making the Provincial Courts more directly subordinate to the Supreme Court, while it enables the High Commissioner to keep in closer touch with the work of the district officers. The Provincial Courts have, on the whole, worked well, and uniformity of sentences is gradually being arrived at.

(2.) *The Native Courts Proclamation*.—The system of Native Courts which I established has worked fairly well in the districts in which it has been possible to establish such Courts, but the greater part of the Protectorate with which we are in touch is

occupied by pagan tribes, without cohesion, and in a primitive state of development, in which regular Native Courts are not possible, since there are no chiefs and councillors of which to constitute them. I am considering certain modifications to the Native Courts Proclamation, which shall meet the requirements and conditions of these tribes.

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(3.) *The Cantonments Proclamation.*—Under this Proclamation two cantonments only have been so far established, viz., at Jebba and Lokoja. The Cantonment Magistrate has the powers of a Small Cause Court. A revised draft of this Proclamation has already been prepared, under the provisions of which Cantonment Magistrates will become Commissioners of the Supreme Court, by whom their powers may be extended. The sanitary and other regulations under this Proclamation have provided adequate powers, but the funds raised by municipal taxation and court fees and fines have been insufficient to keep up roads and maintain the cantonments in anything approaching a sanitary state. As I have already said, much clearing of rank grass and bush, and much other work by the Public Works Department, is necessary and most urgently required before the cantonments can be said to be sanitary and in a fit condition to be maintained by the Cantonment Magistrate and cantonment funds. The military officers selected as Cantonment Magistrates require to be seconded, or at least relieved of some of their military duties, for their civil duties are too heavy to admit of their proper performance, in addition to their full military work.

(4.) *The Firearms Proclamation.*—This important Proclamation, giving effect to the obligations of the Brussels Act, differs slightly from parallel legislation in West Africa in that it prohibits the possession of arms of precision already existing in the Protectorate, except by permit and registration, and makes it necessary for a licensee to account for his firearms before leaving the country.

(5.) *The Liquor Proclamation* prohibits the import of all trade liquor into the Protectorate, as well as its possession and sale.

(6.) *The Slavery Proclamation.*—This law is directed principally against the enslaving of any person, and only affects domestic slavery in so far as it abolishes the legal status, and declares all children born after April 1, 1901, to be free. The penalties incurred by a British subject for any transaction in slaves are extended to all non-natives and freed slaves. Domestic slaves may not be removed for purposes of sale, gift, or transfer.

(7.) *The Land Proclamation*, enacting that title to land can only be acquired through the High Commissioner.

Trade has suffered from the unrest caused by the raids of Trade and Bida and Kontagora, but the settlement of that matter has economic.

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already produced a marked improvement. New trading stations have been opened during the year by the Niger Company at Wushishi on the Kaduna, and Aboko near Idah. The chief staples are shea butter, palm oil, and nuts, ground nuts, gum arabic, capsicums, rubber, ivory, and hides, while the great article of internal trade is the so-called "potash" (which consists entirely of soda compounds), of which very large quantities are brought down from the Hausa states, and sold in the southern territories. Another article of African production and consumption which forms a staple of internal trade is the kola nut, and, in some districts, salt. The imports for the purposes of trade are chiefly cloth and salt. As the duty on all imports is collected on the coast by the authorities of Southern Nigeria and Lagos, and the nature of both imports and exports is declared there, full statistical information will be found in the trade reports of those Administrations, and it is unnecessary to enter into details here. I will therefore deal only with certain points in connection with the development of trade.

Obstacles
to trade
caravans.

Kano is said to be the greatest commercial emporium of Africa. There are collected caravans from Tripoli, Morocco, and the Sahara in the north, and from Lake Chad and Wadai in the east, and Salaga in the west. Great quantities of native produce are, I am informed, available, at prices which would yield a large profit, if only access were obtainable. Large caravans, chiefly consisting of very small donkeys, come southwards through Zaria and Bida and Keffi, paying toll at many places, and occupying many months on the road. The chief difficulty experienced by these caravans has been from the belt of pagan tribes which occupy the country all along the Niger. These people, constantly raided for slaves by the Fulani, retaliate by attacking traders. The Emirs of Kontagora and Bida also have greatly hampered trade by detaining the caravans and taking excessive toll. It has been my policy during the past year, greatly retarded by the Ashanti war, to open up these trade routes, (1) by altogether stopping the slave raiding of the Emirs of Bida and Kontagora, (2) by prohibiting the pagans from attacking caravans, and punishing those who persist, (3) by abolishing all tolls by native Emirs on caravans. It is probable that it may now be feasible to impose a reasonable toll in substitution of these onerous imposts, and thereby add to the revenue of the Protectorate. Such a tax would be amply justified (1) in lieu of the tolls abolished, (2) in return for the safety of the roads secured by the Government, and (3) in view of the cost involved in improving the roads and bridging the streams and the consequent facilities given to caravans.

I have already laid it down as the first task to be undertaken, that the caravan roads from the interior to the Niger should be rendered safe for small traders. Much progress in this has, I think, been made during the past year. From the extreme

western (Anglo-French) frontier in Borgu to the Bautshi highlands, the object has, to a large extent, been achieved, and the effect on trade is already visible. Efforts at its more complete realization are, of course, still in progress, but until the staff of political officers is increased, as proposed, no permanent good can be done. Capable officers can do much more by getting in touch with the people than can be effected by a series of punitive expeditions and bloodshed. The land is already sufficiently depopulated by years of slave raiding, and the good of the country demands the preservation of life and the increase of population. Though force must be occasionally applied to bands of recalcitrant robbers, I am convinced that a few such lessons will suffice, and that the district officer, with tact and patience, aided by sufficient civil police, can achieve the pacification of the country effectively, and that parsimony in the appointment of these officers and of their native staff of police, &c., would be a policy of false economy, resulting in unnecessary bloodshed. In my view civil police, under efficient control, backed, of course, by force in the background (as, in fact, it is in every country however civilised), should, as soon as possible, supersede military occupation, setting free the troops for their proper work, viz., the breaking down of organised resistance and the garrisoning of central towns, where their discipline and efficiency can be maintained. This cannot be done if they are frittered away in a score of small detachments. By placing headquarters on the main Kano trade route (connected by a short tramway with the navigable Kaduna) and behind the emirate of Bida (in touch with the pagan tribes and the emirate of Zaria) I hope to achieve the complete pacification of the belt which intervenes between the Niger and the Hausa states.

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Necessity for
political
officers.

In order to render this report as complete as possible I will here recapitulate very briefly the views I have expressed regarding railway extension. So vast an area as Nigeria, comprising in all some 380,000 square miles (of which Northern Nigeria contains about 320,000) cannot be commercially developed except by railways. I do not here dwell on the political reasons which urge the construction of a railway in this vulnerable part of the Empire as a portion of the scheme of Imperial Defence. By railway construction alone can we achieve the rapid concentration of troops and supplies which would supersede the necessity for a greatly increased local force (involving an immense and unremunerative expenditure) to guard our frontiers. Railways are also essential for purposes of internal administration, by facilitating communication. So vast a country cannot, it appears to me, be served by a single railway. The Lagos railway has reached Ibadan, 123 miles from the coast, and only about 150 miles of comparatively easy country now separate it from the Niger. It may be advisable to make a branch line from Ibadan to Sapele, where a good

Railways.

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NIGERIA,
1900-1901.**

port is available (whereas it is calculated that it will cost nearly a million to remove the bar at Lagos) and the branch line would pass through a rich and populous country. In my view the question as to whether this branch line to Sapele should be made, or whether the port of Lagos should be improved, is a matter apart, to be decided by a comparison of cost and a balance of advantages, and it should not interfere with the forward progress of the line now that it has been completed as far as Ibadan. The line should be carried forward without delay to Illorin, and whether it should be taken thence to Jebba or to Egbaji, must be decided by surveys as soon as possible. The Lagos railway, extended eventually to Kano and Katsena, would develop the western territories, and assist in their defence from possible aggression in that direction. An eastern railway, from the fine port of Old Calabar, would have Lake Chad as its ultimate objective, and would protect the eastern frontiers. Whether or not these views recommend themselves, it is, I think, of great importance that a railway policy should be settled, for much can be done in the way of surveys and road making to prepare the way for a coming railway, and such a definite policy would be of the utmost use to local administrators in determining the lines of development and progress. I have strongly urged the great importance of at once deciding at what point the Lagos railway shall cross the Niger, looking, on the one hand to the magnitude of the task in bridging the river, and on the other hand to the comparative feasibility of alternative routes (from the point at which the line crosses) to the north towards Kano. No time, I think, should be lost in making these surveys, and in obtaining the best expert opinion as to the bridging work, for on that decision will largely depend the policy in the Protectorate. It may also be borne in mind that once the point at which the railway will cross the river is decided, railway material can, if desired, be more cheaply brought to that point by steamers direct from England at high river, than it could be by rail from Lagos, even when the Lagos railway reaches the river. Construction northwards and southwards (to meet the Lagos line) can be simultaneously undertaken from that point, nor indeed is it necessary to delay the forward progress till the bridge (which will be necessary eventually) is constructed. In fact, so far as the development of Northern Nigeria is concerned, the need is for a railway from the Niger banks to Kano, and not for connection with Lagos. The Lagos railway will, beyond doubt, benefit Lagos, but since Northern Nigeria has the waterway of the Niger for the export of its produce, and since water carriage is cheaper than railage, it is not clear what benefit to its trade the Lagos railway will confer. Every yard, however, of a railway from the Niger to Kano would, by superseding the present caravan transport, tend greatly to promote the development of trade.

**Trade com-
petition.**

Much has been said from time to time regarding the absence of trade competition on the Niger. It is necessary to bear in

mind the distinction between European competition (a) in the native markets, and (b) in the supply of necessities to Government employees. As regards the former (a), I have only two observations to offer. (1) The argument of those who hold that the policy of amalgamation of European interests in undeveloped countries is preferable to competition in the purchase of native produce deserves to be seriously considered. If fair dealing, enterprise, and energy be assured, an amalgamation of European interests may prevent the undue enhancement of prices, and enable the amalgamated trading corporation to set aside capital for extension and development, which else would be absorbed in the struggle of competition. While the wants of natives in a primitive state remain few, enhancement of prices no doubt decreases supply, for the producers, having acquired all the goods they need, will not exert themselves to tap to the full the resources of the land. For a similar reason it would have an adverse effect upon the supply of labour, and would put up the price of the labour market; and (as I have pointed out), Government being the chief employer of labour (whether for public works, soldiers, or transport) is the principal sufferer, and progress is rendered most costly, and the cost of administration is greatly increased. (2) My second observation in this connection is that, in spite of the clamour that the Niger should be thrown open to trade competition, I am unable, after enquiry, to discover any British firms who are willing to enter the field under the principles of free trade without bias or discrimination. The country is now open to them to reap the supposed benefits for which they have so long agitated, but none have come forward to introduce capital or competition, and, so far as I can ascertain, those traders who desired to enter Northern Nigeria have coalesced with the Niger Company, or are debarred, either by lack of capital or by pre-existing contracts, from becoming their rivals.

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NIGERIA,
1900-1901.

(a.) Native
produce.

Turning to the question of competition by European firms in the supply of necessities to Government employees, (b), no doubt in this field competition is highly desirable. In its absence I have been compelled to undertake the formation of a canteen for the supply of provisions to Europeans, and I had it in contemplation to import the barter goods necessary for the use of native soldiers, in order to reduce prices. Such semi-commercial transactions are not the proper function of Government, and the Protectorate staff is insufficient to meet the extra work entailed. Soon after the transfer of the administration to Her Majesty's Government I raised the subject of the rates which should be charged by the Niger Company to Government soldiers, carriers, and labourers, for the ordinary barter goods (cheap cloth and salt, &c.), with which they purchase their food in the market, and the rates at which similar goods should be sold to the Government of the Protectorate when compelled to use them (in lieu of coinage) as currency in

(b.) Wants
of Govern-
ment
servants.

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1900-1901.

the interior. I demanded that such goods should be supplied to Government, or to soldiers, &c. (on cash payments), at reduced rates. The Company at first refused any reduction, but latterly agreed to certain "wholesale rates." The result was not merely to maintain an unnecessary cost of all establishments to Government, but to enhance the labour rates, since the Company, by paying their labourers in goods instead of coin, and selling those goods at a profit to Government, compelled me to pay a higher rate for labour than they did themselves. My alternative was to import the goods, a course I was unwilling to adopt, since it would have complicated accounting work, and introduced a fresh element of a commercial nature into the already too onerous work of subordinate officers, both military and civil. I have since learned with great satisfaction that the Directors of the Company are willing to come to a satisfactory arrangement with me both on this matter and on the question of freights, which they have already tentatively reduced, from 1st January last. Should I fail, however, to effect a thoroughly satisfactory arrangement on this question, I can see no reason why competition should not be introduced (if necessary assisted by Government) in this department of trade, without violation of the principles of fair trade which it is my object to maintain, so long as the Company will meet the demands of Government in a liberal spirit.

Native
traders.

I have spoken of competition between European traders, in the two branches of native produce, and of supply to Government employees. There remains the very important question of competition by small native traders. I am not of opinion that in Northern Nigeria—in Southern Nigeria the case may be different—the small trader from the coast will be of any great use, while he is quite certain to give much trouble in his dealings with the natives, and by his fondness for litigation. Experience has, moreover, shown that, as a matter of fact, he does not travel in the interior and open up markets, but is content to remain to the full as stationary as an European. The immigrant black trader is, in fact, by no means a desirable person, but every effort should be made to encourage natives of the Protectorate to become small traders and collectors of local produce. I regret that the Niger Company, who, by their enterprise, and the experience gained by years of successful effort, have secured an unrivalled position in the Protectorate, have not seen their way so far to utilise that position to the enormous good of the country and their own ultimate benefit, by encouraging local natives to become small traders, and by making advances against their stock or utilising their agency.

Forestry
Department.

Another point in connection with the economic development of the Protectorate is the necessity for the creation of a small Forestry and Botanical Department. It is highly desirable to ascertain where, and in what quantity, timber of commercial value for export or local use exists; to discover the forests which

contain rubber, and to enforce rules which shall preserve them from the destruction which has overtaken those in Lagos by the neglect, till too late, of this precaution, and to plant areas with young trees. It is desirable to establish, as in all other Colonies, a botanical garden for experiment with local products, and as a nursery for imported trees and plants of economic value, which it may be useful to introduce, as also small model farms. It is also desirable to systematise the mode of collection of all economic vegetable products for export sale; of the cutting of timber for steamer fuel; of the felling of trees around cantonments for domestic use; and to collect and disseminate useful information on these subjects.

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NIGERIA,
1900-1901.

There are two serious disabilities under which the British possessions in West Africa lie in respect of revenue and expenditure. The first is the necessity for sending home every European after a year's residence, for a period of six months, on full pay leave. This is a terrible tax on the revenues of the country, necessitating the increase of the staff (civil and military) from a third to a half, breaking the continuity of work, and dislocating the machinery of Government. I trust that the opening up of the Hausa States, with their healthy climate, distant from the malarial swamps of the coast, and the equally malarial valley of the Niger, may, when more rapid communication is established, render possible a considerable modification of this system in Northern Nigeria. It may then be possible to leave it to the discretion of the High Commissioner what period of leave should be granted, and this would depend upon the district in which each officer had been employed. A rigid rule in so large a country even now does not work fairly.

Cost of
leave rules.

The second disability is the preposterous rates of pay which have been instituted for local labour of all kinds. Confined till lately to the coast belt, and not in touch with the labour markets of the interior, British possessions have been content to pay whatever the limited supply demanded. The system was still further fostered by the large profits which West Coast traders demanded for the sale of goods, and thus, while they recouped themselves for the cost of such little labour as they required, Government became the victim, and progress was paralysed by the cost of labour. Both in the rates of pay of soldiers, and of carriers and unskilled labour, I have made great efforts at reduction. These have been largely successful, and I hope to effect still further reductions. The rates for so-called skilled labour, viz., of clerks, artisans, engineers, and pilots, &c., are also fully 50 per cent. higher than they should be. In all these spheres British Indians of a much more efficient type than the class available here, and doing half as much again in a day's work, can be engaged in India at less than half the rates here paid. It is a matter for consideration whether it would not be worth while making an experiment in the introduction of these classes from India, more especially in the

Cost of local
labour.

NORTHERN NIGERIA, 1900-1901. interior. The expenditure on carriers and unskilled labour I hope largely to reduce by the introduction of wheeled traffic and motor cars.

Foreign relations.

The Anglo-French frontier to the west of the Niger has been delimited by a Boundary Commission during the past year. The enclave near Badjibo has also been selected, but the lease has not yet been signed. Recently a large French expedition, consisting of five white men with native followers, 23 barges, and 200 tons of provisions, &c., has arrived, and intends to make its way up the rapids to the frontier at Illo, and thence to Timbuktu. Temporary regulations were drawn up by me relating to the use of the enclave, and to the transit of goods through the Protectorate, and were accepted by the French commander. No European has occupied the enclave, but a party of Laptots were left there by Major Toutée.

West African Frontier Force.

The inclusion of the Royal Niger Constabulary brought the native establishment of the West African Frontier Force to full strength for the first time since the force was raised. Unfortunately, just when this large increase had to be assimilated and properly drilled, the establishment of officers and British non-commissioned officers was far below its strength, nor could further vacancies, as they occurred, be filled, owing to the war in South Africa. A company at full strength was away in Southern Nigeria on the Cross River. At the beginning of the year the campaign against the Munshis was in progress, and was successfully concluded by Lieutenant-Colonel Cole. In April, 1900, reinforcements for Ashanti were required, and were rapidly despatched, with all available officers and British non-commissioned officers. The commandant, Colonel Willcocks (now Sir J. Willcocks) was appointed to command the Ashanti force, and left early in May. The total troops despatched numbered in all about 1,200.

During the absence of these troops and of so many officers and non-commissioned officers, it was only with the greatest difficulty that the necessary garrison duties were carried on, and month by month the roster of Europeans became more and more depleted, while there were no troops to deal with the difficulties with Kontagora and Bida, and on the north-west frontier, which I have described. The murder of Mr. Carnegie necessitated an immediate punitive expedition if the ill effects of that sad event were to be prevented from spreading through the country, and with such men as could be got together, Lieutenant-Colonel Cole successfully destroyed Dangara's town by a very well-planned and well-executed march. The troops returned from Ashanti at the end of December, and at the same time it was found possible to send out more officers and non-commissioned officers. The operations against the Emirs (described in another paragraph) were undertaken early in the new year.

Desertion has been rare during the year, and the troops have gained distinction and proved the soundness of their organisation and training during the Ashanti campaign, as well as in the local expeditions, and by the uncomplaining performance of very heavy garrison duties during the absence of the Ashanti troops. A much desired improvement will be effected next year by the abolition of the cumbersome black belts and accoutrements, and the substitution of brown leather, in harmony with the khaki uniform. A new departure has been taken during the year in the abolition of class companies. Hausas and Yorubas are now enlisted in the same companies, instead of being kept (as was necessary at first) in separate companies. This is in every way an advantage, and may, to some extent, lead to the universal use of Hausa as the language of the West African Frontier Force. I consider it an important matter to maintain a balance not merely of races but of Mohammedans and pagans in the corps. Indeed, though I have a great respect for the Mohammedan religion, so much so that I have granted a small piece of Government land for the erection of a mosque in Lokoja, I do not consider it politic to enlist too great a number of Mohammedans as soldiers. Already, in my view, we have an excess of Mohammedan levies in Africa, especially in the Nile Sudan. It is a religion which renders Africans liable to wild bursts of religious frenzy, in which even those who are normally indifferent to religion are carried away by the visionary dreams of enthusiasts. Our recent experience has taught us that the pagan Gwaris, Kedaras, and other tribes yield to none in bravery. They all speak Hausa, and I hope to enlist many as soon as we get into touch with them at the new headquarters. It is, in fact, my desire to make the West African Frontier Force, as far as possible, a Hausa-speaking pagan force, and I am convinced that it will thus be a far more reliable source of military strength.

NORTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900-1901
—
Conduct of
troops.

Classes of
men enlisted.

The southern frontier of the Protectorate has been settled in conference with the Governor of Lagos from its western limit as far as Aeidi, where it turns nearly due south to Owo. Leaving the Okpara River in the approximate latitude of Ilesha it leaves that town and Bodé to the north, and passes north of Kishi. Thence turning south-east it includes the ruins of Old Oyo and Igbeti in Lagos, passing close to these places and striking thence direct to Budu Egba, which is included in Northern Nigeria. Thence it crosses the Awere stream, seven miles north of Odo Otin, and leaving Illa to the south, passes south of Awton and north of Aiyi, as far as Aeidi, which it skirts, leaving that town in Lagos. The line requires settlement on the ground by officers of the two Governments. The important town of Owo will be in Southern Nigeria, and thence the line will proceed as direct as possible to the Niger, opposite Idah. It has appeared to me that it would be advisable to

Boundaries

**NORTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900-1901.**

include in Northern Nigeria any large town close to the frontier which might become depôts for the storage and sale of liquor, but the new spirit law of Southern Nigeria prohibits the sale (though not the possession) of spirits in all towns near the south frontier of Northern Nigeria, and the Governor of Lagos has promised to introduce legislation in any important towns under his administration to check the sale, if experience proves them to be depôts for the traffic. Such towns are Ogbomosho, Kishi, and Akure. This practically carries out my original proposal for a buffer zone.

Medical.

I have the greatest pleasure in recording the fact that the past year has witnessed a most satisfactory diminution of mortality among Europeans in Government service. The steady diminution of deaths and serious illness which has been noticeable since the beginning of 1898 (when the West African Frontier Force was raised) is due largely to the introduction of polo and tennis, which provide the active exercise so vitally necessary in a climate like West Africa. It has become a byword in the

Recreation

country that no one who plays these games is ever invalided. I hope in the coming year to provide similar facilities at the new cantonment, and to add other forms of active recreation. The occupation of this site away from the malarial river valley will, I hope, further greatly improve the health statistics of the Protectorate. The construction of good roads, apart from their administrative and commercial value, will assist in this respect by adding cycling to the list of active sports.

Houses.

Another vital necessity for the preservation of health lies in good housing. The small huts of the West African Frontier Force had been occupied by three officers or five non-commissioned officers each. Thus an officer had a room 12 feet by 12 feet, affording a cubic space of air insufficient for health in the tropics, more especially since it is almost impossible to keep windows open at night, on account of the violent tornados. Early in 1900 each three-roomed officers' hut was converted into a two-roomed, thus giving an officer a room 18 feet by 12 feet, while each non-commissioned officers' hut was accounted accommodation for three men instead of five. Some more houses are now required to replace the old huts at Lokoja. The rooms of the houses to be erected at the new cantonment are of adequate dimensions. In the third essential for health, proper sanitation, I regret to say that much, almost everything, has still to be done. The immediate vicinity of Europeans' quarters is clean and comparatively sanitary, but, especially at Lokoja, the cantonment is full of rank grass, six to eight feet high, which becomes a native latrine, while three or four streams running from the hills become, in the dry weather, a series of stagnant pools, and several small hill-side marshes, easily drained, add to the facilities offered for the propagation of mosquitos and malaria. In my estimates I have included a sum for the proper sanitation of cantonments. I propose to replace the rank grass

Sanitation.

by "dhub," and I have removed the quarters of civilians at Lokoja from the vicinity of the native town, which, as I have said, I hope to move gradually to a site six or seven miles down stream. All new houses are being built further from the river on higher ground, and with an aspect to catch the prevailing breeze. I am already experimenting in the sinking of wells to replace river water, and the streams will be enclosed and the whole area properly drained. These works are now in progress. The erection of a condenser at Lokoja, which supplies distilled water for drinking, has been a great boon, and no doubt a great preservative against dysenteric and other germs. No case of dysentery has occurred since its erection. The tile roofing I have proposed will, I anticipate, render all houses much cooler, and improve the quality of the water collected.

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NIGERIA,
1900-1901.

Among the flood of literature which has lately been poured out on tropical diseases, the diseases of the natives seem to have been lost sight of. Epidemics of small-pox occur from time to time, and as all imported lymph has proved useless, I hope next year to experiment in the production of calf lymph locally. I am also considering with the Principal Medical Officer means of checking the prevalence of venereal disease.

Native
diseases

In conclusion, I would venture to submit a few observations upon the objects which should guide the policy and the lines of progress and development in the coming year. As regards Sokoto and the north west frontier, the period within which—under the terms of the Convention of June, 1898 (ratified June, 1899)—England and France engaged to appoint Commissioners to delimit the northern frontier of Northern Nigeria will expire in June, 1901. Looking to the official decree, published over the signature of the President of the French Republic, which includes in the Zinder district (French) many towns marked in the map of the Convention, and in the most recent official French map as far within the British frontier, and in view also of the constant unrest among the tribes on that frontier, I think this delimitation should not be delayed, and the final and definite position of the frontier should be settled. As regards the north-east, the settlement of the question regarding Fad-el-Allah, and the situation brought about by the Emir of Yola, will necessitate the administration of Bornu and Yola as "Provinces." The estimates for the year 1901-1902 provide for eight provinces, viz., Borgu, Illorin, Kontagora, Bida, Kabba, Lower and Upper Benue, and Gwari (or Zaria). It will be necessary to ask for additional staff during 1902-1903, for five more provinces, viz., Bornu (2), Yola, Bautchi and Bassa. This will enable me to open up the eastern provinces, and the great trade routes from Lake Chad through a district reputed to be, at present, full of robbers and brigands, who have hitherto closed the roads to caravans. I anticipate a great development of trade from this extension. The incorporation of these provinces is the more

Policy in the
coming year.

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1900-1901**

necessary since it is in this direction that anticipations of mineral development are formed. Our obligations towards France and Germany to prevent incursions across our frontier into foreign territory, equally with the necessity for safeguarding the trade which naturally belongs to the British territory from being diverted into other channels, alike demand some action in this direction, and I feel convinced that the pacification of these eastern provinces is a task which will be fully compensated by a rapid increase in trade and mineral development, which will bring in an increased revenue.

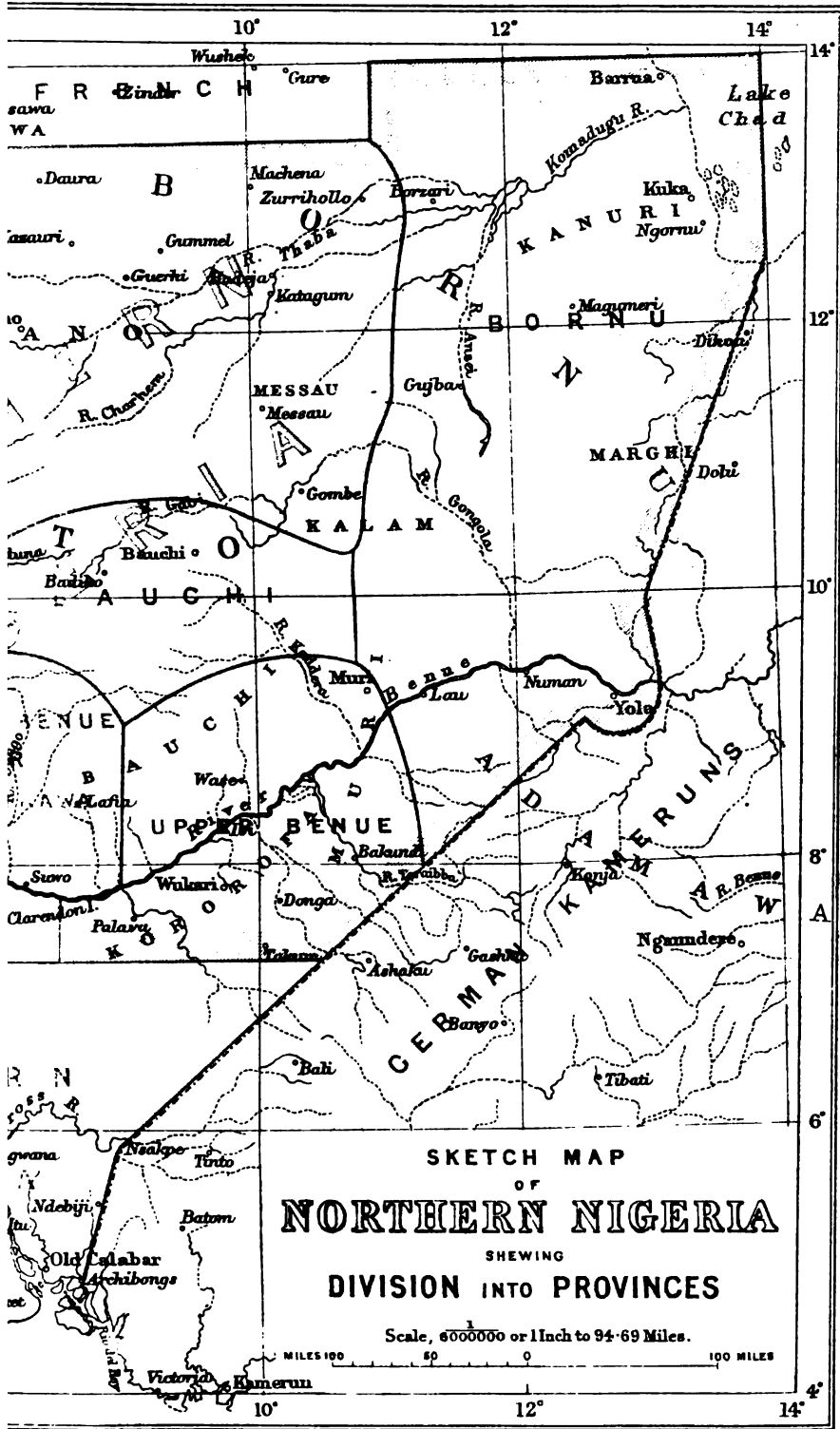
The policy which I am endeavouring to carry out as regards the natives of the Protectorate may, perhaps, be usefully summarised here. The Government utilises and works through the native chiefs, and avails itself of the intelligence and powers of governing of the Fulani caste in particular, but insists upon their observance of the fundamental laws of humanity and justice. Residents are appointed whose primary duty it is to promote this policy by the establishment of native courts, in which bribery and extortion and inhuman punishments shall be gradually abolished. Provincial Courts are instituted to deal with the non-natives, and to enforce these laws of the Protectorate, more especially which deal with slave raiding and slave trading, the import of liquor and firearms, and extortion from villagers by terrorism and personation. If an Emir proves unamenable to persuasion or to threats, and will not desist from such actions (as in the case of Kontagora and Bida) he is deposed, and in each case a Fulani or other successor recognised by the people has been installed in his place. The traditional tribute (except that in slaves) paid by villages to their chief is insisted upon, and its incidence and collection are being regularised so as to prevent extortion or an undue burden on the agricultural or trading classes. I recognise the obligation of the chiefs to contribute to the revenue in return for the enhancement of their dues resulting from this system, and, in return, for the protection of the roads from the robbers which used to infest them, and for the improvement of communications, etc. But I have not as yet formulated any definite line of action in this connection, since it is one which needs the utmost tact, and I should prefer to discuss it with the chiefs themselves on my return to the Protectorate before forming any definite conclusions. It is probable, moreover, that in so vast a country one uniform and inflexible method may not be adapted to all districts. If, indeed, we were only able to succeed during the first year or two in abolishing the revenue which has accrued to Emirs by the enslaving of the pagan tribes, and, by substituting a better system of tribute from the subordinate villages, to secure that no discontent was felt at the change, we should, in my opinion, have achieved no mean success. But I hope that before long we shall be able to go still further, and to obtain a tangible return for the expenditure incurred.

Among the wholly uncivilised pagan tribes, who owe no allegiance to a paramount chief, it is often difficult to apply these principles of rule, and the political officers have to undertake a more direct responsibility owing to the difficulty, and often impossibility, of establishing native courts, and to the lawless habits of the people. Among these tribes it is my policy to centralise authority, as far as may be, in a recognised chief, and to introduce the civilising agency of trade, while repressing all intertribal quarrels.

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NIGERIA,
1900-1901.

In the first year, some small progress along these lines has been made, and I look for increasing results in the coming year with a somewhat more adequate and more fully organised staff of capable and zealous political officers.

F. D. LUGARD.



Litho^d at the Intelligence Division, War Office, Nov. 1901.



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No 353.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899-1900 *see* No. 315.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
April, 1902.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
326	Barbados	1900
327	Bahamas	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements... ..	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia	"
333	Seychelles	"
334	Falkland Islands	"
335	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
336	British New Guinea	1899-1900
337	Leeward Islands	1900
338	Trinidad and Tobago	"
339	British Honduras	"
340	Hong Kong	"
341	Ceylon	"
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900-1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900-1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900-1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900-1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.

No. 353.

SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

(For Report for 1899-1900, *see* No. 315).

HIGH COMMISSIONER SIR R. MOOR to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Old Calabar,
24th January, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward enclosed the Blue Book for the calendar year 1900 and Report thereon in duplicate. The instructions in your despatch of the 17th of September last required that the Blue Book should be confined to the calendar year, and as the Blue Book and the Report on receipt of your despatch mentioned were not completed, the change was at once made, as there was considerable advantage in starting it with the year 1900, the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria with its present area and administration having been inaugurated from the 1st of January in that year.

2. The Financial Returns in the Blue Book are dealt with for the financial year, 1st April, 1899, to 31st March 1900, and the Public Works Returns, being regarded as principally financial, have been treated in the same way.

3. The imports and exports include those for Northern Nigeria, and it has not been found possible to distinguish them in the year 1900, but instructions have been issued that in future years while the total imports and exports will be given together a separate return will show the imports and exports of Northern Nigeria. In future years also the imports and exports returns will be arranged in groups.

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SOUTHERN
NIGERIA.
1900.

4. The delay in forwarding the Blue Book and Report thereon is due to the change that was made by your despatch above referred to at the time that the Blue Book and Annual Report were preparing for the financial year, so that entirely fresh returns had to be obtained. I hope in future years to furnish the Blue Book and Report thereon within four months of the termination of the year.

I have, &c.,

R. MOOR,

High Commissioner.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1900.

By the Southern Nigeria Order in Council, 1899, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1900, part of the territories of the Royal Niger Company, Chartered and Limited, was added to the Niger Coast Protectorate, and the combined territories were constituted into the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, under the administration of a High Commissioner.

The statistical system which obtained in the Royal Niger Company differed from the system observed in the Niger Coast Protectorate Blue Books, and comparison is therefore impracticable between the figures in the Blue Book for 1900 and the statistics contained in the Blue Books of the Niger Coast Protectorate.

It has recently been decided that the Blue Books and other annual reports (except the financial reports) should be drawn up to cover the calendar year instead of the financial year (1st April to 31st March). As the Blue Book of the Protectorate for 1900 is, for the reason already given, the first of a series, its publication has been delayed in order that the statistics contained in it might as far as possible cover the calendar year. The change in the period covered by the Blue Book is, therefore, a second reason why no useful comparison can be made between its contents and those of previous reports.

FINANCIAL.

The Financial Returns in the Blue Book of 1900 relate to the period ending on the 31st March, 1900, and consequently do not wholly represent the statistics either of Southern Nigeria or of the Niger Coast Protectorate. The following table, however, shows, as far as can be shown by the yearly totals, the extent to

which the statistics have been altered by the inclusion of the Southern
 Royal Niger Company's territories during the last quarter of NIGERIA,
 the financial year:— 1900.

Revenue.

Heads of Revenue.						Totals for year ending March 31st, 1900.	Totals for year ending March 31st, 1899.
						£	£
Customs	...	...	...	...	...	156,491	160,669
Licences, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	775	656
Fees, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	3,358	3,719
Postal Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	1,397	1,688
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	2,085	2,833
Total	...	...	...	...	...	164,108	169,567
Decrease in year ending 31st March, 1900						5,459	—

Expenditure.

Heads of Expenditure.				Total during year ending March 31st, 1900.	Total during year ending March 31st, 1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
				£	£	£	£
Pensions	...	...	...	280	1,630	—	1,350
Commissioner and Consul-General.				4,046	3,984	62	—
Secretary's Department	...			655	41	614	—
Political and Administrative staff.				20,327	18,246	2,081	—
Judicial Department	...			967	834	133	—
Survey	„	...	...	—	—	—	—
Carried forward	...			26,275	24,735	2,890	1,350

SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.Expenditure—*continued*.

Heads of Expenditure.	Total during year ending March 31st, 1900.	Total during year ending March 31st, 1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
Brought forward ...	£ 26,275	£ 24,735	£ 2,890	£ 1,350
Treasury Department ...	2,352	2,400	—	48
Customs „ ...	7,251	6,478	773	—
Post Office „ ...	3,115	3,053	62	—
Printing „ ...	1,328	1,231	97	—
Audit „ ...	769	786	—	17
N.C.P. Force ...	30,196	21,372	8,824	—
Marine Department... ..	32,531	22,097	10,434	—
Prisons „ ...	7,200	6,038	1,162	—
Botanical „ ...	1,171	1,255	—	84
Medical „ ...	9,272	10,129	—	857
Sanitary „ ...	1,147	1,140	7	—
Transport „ ...	5,729	6,161	—	432
Aborigines ...	8,236	7,115	1,121	—
Miscellaneous ...	11,006	9,346	1,660	—
Public Works Department...	3,896	3,437	459	—
„ „ Recurrent ...	5,387	5,565	—	178
„ „ Extraordinary	19,267	14,407	4,860	—
Total ...	176,128	146,745	32,349	2,966
Increase in period ending 31st March, 1900.	29,383	—	—	—

From the table of revenue it will be noticed that there was a decrease of £5,459 in the revenue of the year ending 31st March, 1900, as compared with the revenue of the previous year. The decrease is the more noteworthy because during the last quarter

of the year, duty was received in respect of the importations of the Niger Company. The amount of duty received at Akassa during the last quarter was £4,617, and probably a similar amount was collected at ports in the Western Division. But for this increase, the decrease mentioned above would therefore have been nearly £15,000. It has to be further remembered that *ad valorem* duties were levied during the last quarter of the year for the first time. The decrease can, however, be accounted for by the large decrease in the importations of gin and rum which was probably, in part, due to the large importation during 1898-99, as is shown by the following figures:—

SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.

—	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1897-98.	1896-97.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Gin	614,298	980,944	857,802	598,073
Rum	164,208	324,161	266,969	253,289

Of the increase, £29,389, which took place during the year in the expenditure, £11,710 was due to increases in personal emoluments and £17,678 to expenditure on other charges. It will be seen, therefore, that as regards the period ending 31st March, 1900, the incorporation of territories of the Royal Niger Company produced relatively little change in the expenditure and revenue of the Protectorate.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The financial year ending 31st March, 1899, showed an excess of assets over liabilities of £58,469, and on March 31st, 1900, this excess had increased to £67,089.

Of the latter sum, £27,500 was invested at interest, and a sum of £5,340 was set aside to meet the cost of making good depreciation in the yacht "Ivy," the balance consisting of cash, remittances in transit, etc.

CURRENCY.

By universally accepted custom, the currency of the Protectorate is, as between persons who are not natives of the Protectorate, the British currency. The natives in dealings between themselves, use in different parts of the Protectorate brass rods, manillas, brass wire, gin, cloth, and tobacco. In transactions between or with Europeans, these articles cannot be regarded in any way as serving the purpose of a currency, their use in such transactions being merely an instance of barter. In the Benin territories, as in Lagos, cowries are used for small purchases, and may be regarded as acting as a currency to a limited extent.

**SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.**

The absence of coin in the districts has made it necessary to recognise that orders of the Native Courts can be complied with by payment in manillas, brass rods, etc., and even in "trade goods," except gin. This custom probably originated with the provisions contained in Section CXI. of the Africa Order in Council, 1889.

The estimated average value of brass rods is $2\frac{1}{2}d.$, of manillas, $1\frac{1}{2}d.$, and of wires, $\frac{1}{2}d.$ The value varies, however, not only in different districts but also at different times of the year. The use of "wires" is confined to parts of the Old Calabar and Cross River districts. In other districts the absence of a small medium of exchange is remedied in native transactions by sub-dividing tobacco, gin, etc.

By the "Amended Customs Tariff Proclamation of 1900," silver of the realm (meaning of course the United Kingdom) not being of the established standard in weight or fineness is absolutely prohibited from importation.

During 1900 specie was imported to the value of £135,309. The importations of specie into the Niger Coast Protectorate during the years 1897-98, 1898-99, 1899-1900, were £29,202, £29,290, and £36,372, respectively. Practically there was no exportation of specie during 1900.

TAXATION.

The Customs duties during the year were collected under Proclamation No. 2 of 1900, by which the previous tariff was repealed. The duties levied under this law include a comparatively short list of specific duties, the principal items in which are unmanufactured tobacco, $3d.$ per lb.; salt, 20s. per ton; gunpowder, $6d.$ per lb.; flint lock guns, 2s. 6d. each; and spirits, 3s. per gallon. Subject to the "free" list, which includes building materials, cooper's stores, mining and sawing machinery, etc., all the importations not included in the specific duty list were made liable to an *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. The law provided that the territories of Lagos, Northern Nigeria, and Southern Nigeria should for Customs purposes be regarded as one territory. Chiefly in connection with the latter provision an amending law was necessary and was prepared (The Amended Customs Tariff Proclamation, 1900, No. 28 of 1900), but as the law did not come into operation until the 1st January, 1901, it is unnecessary to detail its provisions here.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

From the summary given below it will be noticed that the exports and imports in 1900 nearly balanced one another, there being a surplus of £18,021 only of exports over imports. This

surplus, however, is only arrived at by including in the imports the sum of £135,309, the amount of specie imported. As there was practically no export of specie, the figures in reality show that the value of the imports exceeded the value of the exports by over £100,000.

SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.

The following table also shows that the exports from the Protectorate to foreign countries was very largely in excess of the imports from those countries. This large excess is due to the large quantity of palm kernels shipped to Germany, and in a minor degree to the palm oil shipped to France.

In the case of the United Kingdom, the imports into the Protectorate were, unlike those from foreign countries, in excess of the exports from the Protectorate. This surplus of imports over exports is largely due to the fact that £130,850 specie was imported from the United Kingdom.

Summary of Exports and Imports in 1900.

			£
Total exports	...	...	1,133,604
Total imports	...	...	1,115,583
Surplus of exports	...		18,021
United Kingdom—			
Imports from	...	..	927,905
Exports to	...	...	672,900
Surplus of imports	...		255,005
British Colonies—			
Imports from	...	...	6,256
Exports to	...	...	215
Surplus of exports	...		6,041
Foreign Countries—			
Exports from	...	...	460,483
Imports to	...	...	181,421
Surplus of exports	...		279,067

**SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.**

	Imports from.	Exports to.
	£	£
Germany	87,489	385,806
Holland	83,378	8
United States of America.	6,053	—
Spain	3,212	—
France	—	74,156

The following tables show the principal imports and exports to and from different countries. Kerosene and lamp oil to the value of £6,047 was imported from the United States, and £1,665 of kerosene and lamp oils and £4,459 of specie reached the Protectorate from Grand Canary. With these exceptions the principal importations were confined to imports from the United Kingdom, Germany, and Holland, and the principal exports to those sent to the United Kingdom, Germany, and France.

It will be noticed that the importation of perfumery from Germany largely exceeds the importation from the United Kingdom. The importation of gin and Geneva from Holland and Germany and the liquors from Germany complete the list of cases in which the imports from the United Kingdom were exceeded by the imports from other countries.

Table showing the principal Imports into the Protectorate and the Countries whence imported.

Article.	Value.	United Kingdom.	Germany.	Holland.
	£	£	£	£
Ale, beer, porter, cider, &c.	4,176	2,076	2,079	17
Bags and sacks	11,810	10,908	894	—
Beads	11,582	8,963	2,380	11
Beef and pork	8,752	8,684	68	—
Building materials ...	45,653	42,337	2,809	419
Boats and canoes	5,715	5,336	143	—
Bread and biscuit	5,739	5,736	—	—

*Imports—continued.*SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.

Article.	Value.	United Kingdom.	Germany,	Holland.
	£	£	£	£
Coal	19,496	17,114	1,292	1,089
Cooper's stores	65,695	61,581	414	3,700
Cotton goods... ..	274,249	271,477	2,037	475
Earthenware	9,932	8,858	1,066	—
Furniture	7,210	5,678	1,375	3
Dane guns	8,853	4,187	641	4,010
Gunpowder	7,358	7,029	329	—
Haberdashery	4,472	4,389	31	—
Hardware and cutlery ...	52,157	36,848	10,305	4,493
Kerosene and lamp oils ...	7,919	167	40	—
Perfumery	2,619	529	2,062	25
Pipes	2,020	1,372	34	110
Provisions	32,210	28,530	2,438	44
Rice	18,856	17,122	1,689	—
Salt... ..	34,115	34,115	—	—
Silk goods	20,924	17,290	3,600	—
Soap	9,443	9,251	189	—
Brandy	720	631	79	1
Gin and Geneva	99,118	1,523	30,342	67,250
Liqueurs	915	116	798	—
Rum	13,438	2,502	10,083	18
Whiskey	5,135	5,064	46	—
Wines	6,001	5,432	264	1
Tobacco, unmanufactured ...	67,638	67,588	49	—
Umbrellas	6,157	5,747	394	—
Wearing apparel	28,950	26,616	1,115	88
Specie	135,309	130,850	—	—

SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.

*Table showing the principal Exports and the Countries
to which exported.*

Article	Value.	United Kingdom.	Germany.	France.
	£	£	£	£
Cocoa	2,709	2,489	220	—
Coffee	725	709	16	—
Ebony	1,665	1,558	106	—
Fibre	2,922	2,922	—	—
Ground Nuts ...	3,704	3,704	—	—
Gum Copal	1,513	1,512	1	—
Ivory	13,794	12,872	922	—
Native Timber ...	7,013	6,792	221	—
Miscellaneous Products.	37,091	33,716	66	3,276
Palm Kernels ...	430,016	83,019	346,997	—
Palm Kernel Shells	637	637	—	—
Palm Oil	491,131	392,156	28,094	70,880
Rubber	137,289	128,440	8,848	—
Specie	20	20	—	—

No change in the direction of trade appears to have taken place. The import and export returns contained in the Blue Book for 1900 include the imports into and exports from Northern Nigeria. This fact accounts for the amount of gum copal exported and also for the large exports in ivory. But with these two exceptions there is nothing to show that the export returns have been greatly increased by exports from Northern Nigeria.

The following table shows the principal imports and exports into and from the Niger Coast Protectorate during the years 1897-98, 1898-99, and 1899-1900.

The decrease in the value of manufactured tobacco during the year 1899-1900 was attributed to larger importations of manufactured tobacco. The decrease has not, however, continued, as the foregoing table shows that £67,638 of unmanufactured tobacco was imported during 1900.

*Imports.*SOUTHERN
NIGERIA.
1900.
—

Article.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£	£	£.
Specie	29,202	29,290	36,372
Cotton goods	156,880	198,763	194,281
Gin and Geneva	65,193	81,020	85,469
Tobacco, unmanufactured ...	57,324	60,898	27,864
Cooper's stores	50,970	44,396	50,816
Building Materials	11,174	16,785	18,954
Hardware and cutlery	37,849	32,319	30,733
Wearing apparel	17,878	24,427	22,902
Salt	10,992	9,098	18,448
Provisions	17,368	19,200	21,193

Exports.

Article.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
	£	£	£
Palm Kernels	295,544	305,791	340,218
Palm oil	410,133	397,868	420,680
Rubber	32,959	60,607	105,116
Ivory	2,530	2,589	3,326
Ebony	2,291	739	229

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY.

The Botanical Gardens are situated at Old Calabar. Largely owing to the ease with which the collection of oil and nuts provides for the requirements of their lives, the natives do not readily attempt to grow or collect other products. To a limited extent the Botanical Gardens have been successful in distributing young coffee and cocoa plants.

With the object of supplying rubber seedlings for trans-plantation into the forest lands between villages, twenty large

**SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.**

nurseries for young rubber were established during the year in the Benin territories. These nurseries were supplied by the rubber seed collected during 1899. The labour of transplanting and subsequently caring for the young rubber will be performed, subject to the supervision of the Forestry Inspectors, by the inhabitants of those villages which will ultimately be enriched by the matured rubber.

Twenty timber concessions were granted during the year, and a large number of licences to collect rubber were issued in the Benin territories, and the fees in connection with these amounted to over £700. The timber (mahogany) cut was in some cases too small, and the conditions of the concessions and licences were not strictly adhered to, with the result that further legislation and organisation was decided upon but could not be carried out during the year.

During the year two large beds of honckeya were planted in the Botanical Gardens, and 100 plants were sent by request to the Botanical Gardens at Aburi, on the Gold Coast. Fifty mango plants (including No. 11, Peach, Mistake, Gordon, Malda, and Peters) were imported from Trinidad, and of these 36 have grown.

The plantations of the Royal Niger Company on the Niger were taken over by the Protectorate. With the exception of a small area of cocoa the plantations were devoted to coffee cultivation, and the number of trees at each place will be found in the appendix to this report.

SHIPPING.

The total number of steam vessels that cleared from ports in the Protectorate during 1900 was 638 (tonnage, 924,124; crew, 25,965). During the year 645 entered (tonnage, 940,389; crew, 25,400). Of these vessels, all were British except 26 foreign vessels (tonnage, 33,853; crew, 596) which cleared, and 22 (tonnage, 33,014; crew, 712) which entered.

These figures show that vessels entering the ports of the Protectorate have relatively smaller crews than when clearing, and that this difference is most marked in the case of foreign steamers.

During the year 18 British steamers and 1 foreign steamer entered in ballast, and 24 and 1 cleared in ballast respectively.

Of the foreign steamers 1 was Spanish and the remainder German.

Of the foreign steamers, 11 came from Germany and 1 from Fernando Po. The same number of foreign steamers cleared for Germany and Fernando Po, and in addition to these 1 cleared for Grand Canary.

The British steamers that cleared and entered included 115 and 114 Lagos steamers respectively. A large proportion of

these must have been the branch steamers by which the cargo is taken between Lagos and Forcados, at which latter place the Lagos cargo is transhipped to or from ocean-going steamers.

SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.

Of the remainder of the British steamers, 28 entered from Germany and 2 from Belgium; 26 cleared for Germany, 2 for the United States of America (both in ballast). The remainder of the British steamers cleared for (82) or entered from (88) the United Kingdom.

Only 4 sailing vessels entered the ports of the Protectorate and only 2 cleared.

The sailing vessels were all foreign.

LEGISLATION.

The Southern Nigeria Order in Council 1899 (*see beginning of this report*) gave law-making powers to the High Commissioner subject, of course, to the pleasure of the Crown. On January 1st, 1900, it became necessary to enact laws for the government of the Protectorate. The "Ordinance Extension Proclamation of 1900" was accordingly passed, by which the Niger Coast Protectorate laws mentioned in the schedule to the Proclamation were made to extend and apply to the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. By the Company's Regulations Repealing Proclamation, 1900, the laws of the Royal Niger Company were repealed.

By the end of April, 1900, twenty Proclamations were passed which were necessary for the proper constitution of the Protectorate. The most important of these laws was perhaps the Supreme Court Proclamation, by which a Supreme Court was established with the same jurisdiction, so far as local circumstances permit, as is vested in the High Court of Justice in England. The law contained a provision to the effect that its terms should not deprive the Court of the right to observe and enforce the observance, nor should deprive any person of the benefit of any law or custom existing in the Protectorate and not repugnant to natural justice, equity, and good conscience. This law was supplemented firstly by the "Commissioners Proclamation," by which, subject to limits therein specified, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was conferred on District Courts, and secondly by the Criminal Procedure Proclamation, which is binding on the Supreme Court and the District Courts.

By the "Native Courts Proclamation," Native Courts were constituted with a criminal and civil jurisdiction, in which cases wherein natives only are concerned can be disposed of by natives under the supervision of a District Commissioner who is *ex officio* President of all Native Courts in his district.

During the year laws were passed regulating prisons,

**SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.**

marriages, patents, trade marks, the importation of spirituous liquors, and the navigation of the Niger.

By the Trade Credit Proclamation, no Court can enforce against a native any obligation of a commercial character based on credit, which has been incurred by him towards a person who is not a native of the Protectorate. By the Folded Woven Goods Proclamation, the importation is prohibited of folded woven goods unless the latter are folded in folds of not less than 36 inches in length, and unless each piece is marked so as to show its length. By Proclamation No. 1 of 1900, no person not being a native can acquire directly or indirectly any right or interest in land without the consent of the High Commissioner.

EDUCATION.

There is no secondary education in the Protectorate, and the primary education is limited to the schools connected with the churches and missions, with the exception of the Eyamba School at Duke Town, Old Calabar, which is managed by a committee of natives. In the schools at Old Calabar and Onitsha, industrial education is combined with primary education.

An important step was taken by the Government in commencing a scheme by which it is hoped that industrial education may be combined with primary education in many places throughout the Protectorate. The scheme met with strong support from the merchants and from Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company and native chiefs. The first institution of the kind was established at Ogugumanga, near Bonny, where a site and building were granted for the purpose of the new educational institute by the merchants. The revenue amounted to £923 10s., of which £240 was granted by the Government, £31 10s. was given by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Company, £450 was collected from donations from the chiefs of Bonny, Opobo, and New Calabar, and the balance, £202, from school fees.

Pupils at the institution have to enter for a term of not less than five years, and accommodation is provided both for day pupils and boarders. The curriculum, as already stated, is confined to primary education, but a payment of 7s. 6d. a quarter (for each subject) enables the pupils to obtain tuition in book-keeping, shorthand, mathematics, and music.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The only hospitals are the European Hospital and the Native Hospital at Old Calabar. In the districts, however, a very large number of cases are treated as extra patients.

The following table shows the death rate and the invaliding

rate of Europeans.* The proportions are based upon the estimated average number of Europeans (namely, 316) in the Protectorate.

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NIGERIA,
1900.

Class.	Number.	Died.	Invalided.	Death rate per 1,000.	Invaliding rate per 1,000.
Officials ...	101	7	12	69·34	118·71
Non-Officials...	215	13	26	60·46	120·93
Total (or mean rate.)	316	20	38	63·29	120·25

The greatest number of deaths and of persons invalided was at Old Calabar, where the numbers during the year were 6 and 8 respectively; but as Europeans naturally endeavour when ill to get to Old Calabar in order to benefit by being nursed in the European Hospital, it does not at all follow that Old Calabar is an unhealthy station. At Asaba there were 4 deaths and 7 persons invalided.

At the European Hospital, 79 cases were treated, of which, as just stated, 6 ended in death. There were 32 cases of malarial fever, 8 of hæmoglobinuria, or blackwater fever, and 37 of unclassified fevers.

In St. Margaret Hospital (Native), 551 cases were treated, of which 30 ended in death. The following are the numbers of cases of the most prevalent diseases:—

Diseases of respiratory system ...	75
Diseases of digestive system ...	56
Varicella ...	54
Diseases of connective tissue ...	49
Local injuries ...	46

Special reports were made on three cases of exceptional interest, one of hemiplegia, reported on by Dr. R. A. Bennett; one of a fever resembling scarlatina, reported on by Dr. E. J. Moore; and a case of ankylostomiasis, reported on by Dr. R. A. Shekleton.

In all the stations as well as in Old Calabar much attention was given to the drainage of spots likely to breed *anopheles* (mosquitos).

In Old Calabar a system of water supply was begun but not actually completed within the year. Works were also begun at Old Calabar by which the sewage will be disposed of on Moule's system.*

* These figures are for the year ending March 31st, 1901.

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NIGERIA,
1900

Prisons.

There are two large prisons, one at Old Calabar and one at Asaba. At Degama, Sapele, and Benin City there are district prisons, and at the other stations in the Protectorate there are "lock-up" houses.

Under the Prisons Proclamation the mark system was introduced, and has worked satisfactorily. There were 765 prisoners committed during the year ending March, 1901, throughout the Protectorate, of whom 3 per cent. were female, and 4 per cent. juveniles. Only 20 persons were imprisoned for more than five years, 380 were committed for three months or less, and the remainder were sentenced for terms exceeding three months but under five years.

The cost of feeding and clothing the prisoners amounted to £2,632, and the estimated value of the work done by them was £3,238, an amount based on the supposition that the work done by a prisoner at hard labour (grass cutting, birch making, road making, sanitary work, etc.) is worth 9d. per day, and that the work done by those at light labour is worth 6d. per day.

There were 38 escapes, of whom 23 were recaptured.

Criminal Statistics.

During the year 1900, the number of informations in the Supreme Court amounted to 31, and resulted in 4 acquittals and 27 convictions.

The number of offences reported to the District Commissioners (who are in charge of the Court Messengers, *i.e.*, the local police) was 496. Of the cases reported, 356 were convicted summarily, 98 were acquitted, 11 were discharged for want of evidence, and the remainder were dealt with in the Supreme Court.

The following table shows how the 356 cases of convictions were dealt with and also the crimes committed:—

	Total number of cases.	Assaults.	Offences against property, other than malicious injury to property.	Offences against revenue, &c.	Other offences.
Fine ...	88	24	—	9	55
Imprisonment in lieu of payment of fine.	4	—	—	1	3
Peremptory im- prisonment.	243	52	117	9	65
Whipping ...	6	1	2	—	3
Bound over or other trivial punishment.	15	9	—	—	6
Total ...	356	86	119	19	132

The figures only cover the period from April 1st, 1900 (when the new laws began to operate) to the end of the year.

SOUTHERN
NIGERIA
1900.

There are no records of the criminal cases disposed of by the Native Courts.

Meteorological Observations.

The returns for 1900 relate to one station only, namely Old Calabar.

On only three days during the year was there an absence of wind, the latter, however, was by no means constant throughout the day, there having been 179 days when it was calm at 7 a.m., 118 days when it was calm at 1 p.m., and 102 days when there was no wind at 9 p.m. The wind was most apt to fall away in the months of August, July, December, and January, and the mean air temperature was lowest in August, July, and January. December and January were the driest months.

Month.	Mean air temperature.	Periods of calm at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 9 p.m. or at two or all of those times.	Mean tension of vapour.	Mean relative humidity.	Rainfall.
January	83·8	35	·780	79·7	1·67
February	84·8	26	·864	77·7	5·40
March	84·8	30	·879	81·9	5·80
April	82·3	33	·833	83·5	13·50
May	81·7	29	·859	84·0	4·59
June	80·8	26	·833	84·4	32·59
July	77·8	49	·802	85·7	18·63
August	77·	43	·807	88·1	6·39
September	80·4	27	·820	89·07	11·84
October... ..	82·3	27	·793	83·5	9·38
November	82·5	29	·862	83·8	11·34
December	81·96	45	·834	83·6	1·30
Year	81·70	—	·830	83·42	117·45

SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.

Post Office.

The chief office is at Old Calabar; there are 11 district offices and 6 postal agencies.

The gross postal revenue during 1900 was £1,786, of which £141 was commission on money orders, and £4 was the value of unclaimed money orders. The cost of the postal service within the Protectorate was £2,855. The cost of conveyance of mails beyond the Protectorate was £435.

Statement of estimated total number of Letters &c., dealt with during 1900.

—	Internal.	United Kingdom.		Total.
		From	To	
Letters and Post cards.	188,796	89,639	90,935	369,370
Newspapers, Book Packets, &c.	29,680	70,179	4,207	104,066
Parcels	5,033	3,085	1,381	9,499

—	Money Orders issued in Protectorate.	Money Orders received in Protectorate.
United Kingdom ...	£ 4,812	£ 335
West African Colonies...	5,296	172
Internal	1,008	1,019

Military Forces and Expenditure.

On the 1st January, 1900, the military force of the Protectorate was raised from 550 to an establishment of 1,050. Part of the arrangement by which the territories of the Royal Niger Company were transferred to the Protectorate was that a portion of the Royal Niger Company's forces, amounting to an establishment of 500 men with arms and ammunition should be taken over by the Protectorate. The increased establishment thus authorised was organised in accordance with the general

recommendations of the Committee who reported in 1899 upon the Amalgamation of the Colonial Military Forces in West Africa. The change necessitated the force being re-armed with the Martini-Enfield carbine (artillery pattern '303 calibre), and an increase in the number of officers from 17 to 29. The force thus established became the 3rd (Niger) Battalion of the West African Frontier Force.

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1900.

The expenditure during 1900 amounted to £30,196, of which £23,632 was spent on pay and allowances, and the balance, £6,564, on other charges, the chief items in which were £1,352, cost of clothing, accoutrements and necessities, and £3,767, the cost of ammunition and purchase and repairs of arms.

Public Works.

The returns of expenditure on Public Works cover the year ending 31st March, 1900.

The following are works completed during that period:—

	Estimated cost	Actual cost.
	£	£
Public works house annex	200	351
Native Prisons	—	21
Native rest houses	200	136
Upkeep of break-water Opobo ...	100	72
" " " Bonny ...	50	16
Extension of temporary building used as post office.	100	97
Moveable brickmaking plant at Old Calabar River.	150	481
Native hospital	—	95
House for Treasury officials	—	277
House for Customs officials at Brass...	—	105
Quarters for native staff, Cross River	50	65
Bridge across creek	—	271

The new prison was begun but not finished, the expenditure during the year being £3,770.

The breakwater at Old Calabar (Quay Wall Works) which is being constructed under the supervision of Messrs. Coode, Son & Matthews, made good progress at a cost of £8,250.

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NIGERIA,
1900.

The Benin City officers' quarters were nearly completed at a cost of £2,641. The sum of £1,026 was spent on the new house for judicial officers out of £1,800, the estimated cost for completion.

£2,448 was spent on current repairs to public buildings.

Staff.

On December 31st, 1900, there were 374 officers employed in the Protectorate who had given bond for the proper discharge of their duties. The security given was that prescribed by the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund Proclamation, 1900.

LESLIE PROBYN,
Secretary.

January 15, 1902.

Appendix showing the number of coffee plants in the plantations on the Niger which were transferred to the Protectorate by the Royal Niger Company.

SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1900.

Number of Coffee Plants on the plantations at Abutshi and Onitsha.

Name of plantation.	Name of plants	In permanent places.	In Beds.
Abutshi	Liberian Coffee	11,863	4,989
do.	Cocoa	612	40
Nkissi	Liberian Coffee	72,690	—
do.	Arabian „	140	380
do.	Rio Pongo „	1,200	—
do.	Cocoa	30	—
Akpakka	Liberian Coffee	16,200	3,610
do.	Arabian „	400	—
do.	Cocoa	364	600
The Creek	Liberian Coffee	15,080	13,350

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1902.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 371.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 323.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1902.



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1902.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
346	Northern Nigeria	1900-1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900-1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900-1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar	"
360	Straits Settlements	"
361	Sierra Leone	"
362	British Honduras	"
363	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
364	Seychelles	"
365	Bahamas	1901-1902
366	Fiji	1901
367	Ceylon	"
368	Barbados	1901-1902
369	Hong Kong	1901
370	Cocos Islands	1902

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Wei-Hai-Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 371.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1900, see No. 323.)

GOVERNOR STERNDALE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle, St. Helena,
19th July, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of
this Colony for the year 1901, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.,

R. A. STERNDALE,

Governor.

FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Comparative Statement of Revenue for the Years 1900 and 1901.

	1900.	1901.
	£	£
Customs	10,426	15,866
Licenses, taxes, &c.	885	947
Fines, fees of court, and reimbursements in aid.	842	1,055
Post Office	1,471	2,090
Rents of Government property ...	869	886
Interest	661	704
Miscellaneous receipts	237	3,066
Total	15,391	24,614

The large increase in Miscellaneous Receipts is accounted for by heavier collections under "Commission on Drafts" and contributions from the Admiralty and War Office towards the new crane, extension of wharf, and the West Rocks road.

*Comparative Statement of Expenditure for the Years
1900 and 1901.*

	1900.	1901.
	£	£
Public debt	500	—
Pensions	1,325	1,022
Governor... ..	970	1,050
Colonial Secretary	596	628
Customs	643	939
Legal	332	347
Savings Bank	464	526
Police	599	821
Gaol	143	153
Medical	1,218	1,613
Education	522	542
Post Office	327	451
Miscellaneous	555	1,486
Colonial Engineer	184	191
Public works recurrent... ..	1,950	2,059
Gratuities	—	105
Public works extraordinary	1,708	2,413
Port and marine... ..	474	486
St. Helena Sharpshooters	95	95
Total	12,603	14,927

LAND, GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

There were no land grants during the year and only one estate came into the open market, which realised at auction about £12 an acre, including a house.

SHIPPING.

173 ships called, 320 were sighted, and 268 communicated with the Station.

The following is the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared:—

British, steam	...	...	...	248,089
„ sailing	...	...	...	4,654
Foreign	...	...	...	859
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	253,602
				<hr/>

The British steam tonnage of the previous year was 155,542, showing an increase during 1901 of 92,547 tons, owing to the larger number of steamers calling with oxen and stores for the Imperial Government.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed:—

No. 1 of May 4th, 1901. An Ordinance to provide for the formation of a Volunteer Force.

No. 2 of June 25th, 1901. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the year 1901.

No. 3 of July 1st, 1901. An Ordinance to provide for the supplementary expenditure of the year 1900.

No. 4 of September 4th, 1901. An Ordinance to provide for the remission of duty on consignments of tobacco for His Majesty's troops at St. Helena.

The following Proclamations were issued:—

January 26th, 1901. Accession of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII.

January 30th, 1901. Respecting the game season for the year 1901.

February 16th, 1901. Imposing restrictions on vessels from Cape Colony on account of bubonic plague existing there.

March 15th, 1901. Respecting the Census.

April 10th, 1901. Lieutenant-Colonel Evans assuming the government of St. Helena during the absence of the Governor.

April 27th, 1901. Prohibiting the landing of cargo from any port in South Africa.

July 25th, 1901. Quarantine regulations.

August 13th, 1901. Port regulations with reference to boats leaving the Port of Jamestown during night hours.

November 14th, 1901. Quarantine regulations.

EDUCATION.

The number of schools is the same as in the year 1900, viz., four Government, five charitable, one military, and one Baptist Sunday School.

I remarked then that the number of scholars had decreased from 793 to 742 owing to the great demand for labour and the comparatively high wages given to mere children. I much regret a still further falling off from the same cause, the figures for 1901 showing a decline from 742 to 720, and this, I fear, will not be remedied till compulsory education is enforced.

PUBLIC GARDENS AND MUSEUM.

The Public Gardens suffered to some extent by the encampment therein of the prisoners of war engaged on the works on the wharf, but now that they have been removed steps will be taken to repair the damage.

The Museum had to be closed for a time owing to injuries to specimens by some of the prisoners of war from Deadwood Camp, the scales on a fine specimen of the tortoise-shell turtle having been ripped off for the purpose of making fancy articles for sale; also a carved stick from Madagascar was stolen, probably for a pattern; but collections continued to be made for ultimate arrangement.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Petty crime increased considerably, as might have been expected with the increase of the population and the larger consumption of intoxicating liquors. There were, however, only two cases tried and convicted in the Supreme Court, one against the person and the other against property.

The following is a comparative statement:—

	1900.	1901.
Number of cases reported to police	246	342
Number of persons apprehended	196	218
Number of summary convictions	162	218
1. For offences against the person	32	47
2. For offences against property other than prædial larceny	10	11
3. For other offences	120	160

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the year under report there was an improvement in the death rate, which was heavy (33·3 per thousand) the previous year owing to a severe epidemic of influenza. In 1901 the death rate was 23·8 per thousand, including garrison and prisoners of war. The number of the latter was raised during the year from 2,454 to 4,655, and our total death return of 125 included 45 prisoners, 9 soldiers, and 1 sailor.

POSTAL AND TELEPHONE.

The work of the Post Office greatly increased, and the revenue rose in consequence to £2,090 from £1,470 in 1900.

Money orders were issued to the extent of £8,572, and paid to the amount of £5,187.

The telephone lines are under the management of the Royal Engineers, the Colonial Government giving an annual grant of £45 and Lloyd's £30. Several new extensions were made in the year for military purposes.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The main points of interest during the year 1901 centre in the Boer camps. The total number of prisoners was 4,655, afterwards greatly increased by more recent captures. About 2,000, chiefly Free Staters, were confined in the new camp at Broad Bottom; the rest, including those captured at Paardeberg and a large number of foreigners, remained at Deadwood.

During the year the 4th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment left for England and the 3rd Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment arrived.

Bubonic plague having made its appearance in South Africa this year, a strict quarantine was established, and the landing of all cargo from South African ports prohibited, especially with a view to the prevention of rats being imported from infected places.

The sanitary condition of Jamestown not being satisfactory, the Board of Health was urged to take steps for the examination and cleansing of all houses and neglected areas, whitewash and disinfectants being distributed gratis and a system of house-to-house collection of refuse being established. The hulk "Howden," a large iron vessel lying in the harbour, was purchased and fitted up as a temporary quarantine depot till the station at Lemon Valley could be prepared. At the same time every encouragement was given to the destruction of rats, which swarm in the Island.

During the year I was compelled by ill-health to take four months' leave of absence, and the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel T. J. P. Evans, the officer commanding the troops, ably administered the government from the 10th of April to the 18th August.

In July Mr. E. A. Brine, C.E., was deputed to examine and report on the drainage scheme for Jamestown, submitting plans and estimates. Mr. Brine gave the Government much valuable advice on other matters also.

We had no Colonial Engineer to assist him, but there was a young Swedish engineer, Baron H. Fagerskiold, a prisoner of war, who had been employed in the Public Works Department during his stay in the Island, who was of great assistance in the drawing of the plans.

Mr. Brine on the completion of his report returned to England to make arrangements for material and effective supervision and to come back in the current year to start the work. He is expected about the middle of August.

R. A. STERNDALÉ.

The great increase in Miscellaneous was due to the purchase of the hulk "Howden" for temporary quarantine purposes, and to special sanitary precautions against the introduction of plague.

Public Works Extraordinary were increased by the reconstruction of the Lemon Valley barracks as a quarantine station and by operations in forestry for which sanction had been received.

Total Revenue and Expenditure for the last Five Years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1897	8,803	13,004
1898	9,153	12,349
1899	11,593	11,422
1900	15,392	12,604
1901	24,614	14,928

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

I am glad to report still more favourable results this year. In my Report for 1900 I stated that the Assets exceeded the Liabilities by £2,625. In the year under report now they exceeded the Liabilities by £9,951.

PUBLIC DEBT.

There was a Parliamentary grant of £5,158 made in 1871-2, which we began to pay off in annual instalments of £500 in 1898, and it stood at £4,158 at the end of 1901—still further reduced during the current year to £2,000.

CURRENCY.

English coin only is current. Silver is a legal tender up to 40s. only, and copper (bronze coin) up to 1s. only, in one payment.

The estimated value of coin in circulation during the year was £35,000.

Specie was imported by the Imperial Government to the extent of £16,650. The only bank in the Colony is the Government Savings Bank. The amount deposited during the year came to £13,218. The withdrawals £7,717 1s. 5d.

The total deposits amounted to £28,003.

Remittances to England by bills on the Crown Agents were £64,703. These bills are now granted at three days' sight instead of ten days as before.

The following are comparative statements for five years of the Poor Relief Board and Public Market:—

Public Relief Board.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1897	£ 826	£ 820
1898	863	850
1899	862	899
1900	857	871
1901	933	855

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1897	£ 112	£ 110
1898	107	109
1899	191	172
1900	238	202
1901	242	173

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
1897	£ 34,365	£ 4,993
1898	62,985	4,891
1899	91,699	4,592
1900	168,282*	4,215
1901	105,645†	4,724‡

* Inclusive of Imperial Stores, &c., amounting to £106,572.

Exclusive of Imperial Stores, value of which not given.

Deduct Specie, £4,035.

The Exports are as usual of small value. Generally, the bulk of them consists of potatoes, which during the year were too much in local demand to allow of exportation, but their place has been taken by skins, the number of oxen imported during the year for the meat rations of the prisoners of war and the troops having amounted to 2,110, the skins of which were purchased by local contractors.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles of import during the last year as compared with the previous one:—

Articles of Import.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	
Beer, hogsheads ...	3,600	9,402	5,807	—
„ dozens ...	382	506	124	—
Beef and pork ...	1,225	1,003	—	222
Coals ...	810	4,485	3,675	—
Cigars ...	1,450	2,029	579	—
Drapery ...	7,910	10,618	2,708	—
Flour and grain ...	6,321	5,110	—	1,211
Machinery ...	2,859	4,623	1,264	—
Oilman's stores ...	14,752	16,245	1,306	—
Rice ...	2,134	1,940	—	194
Spirits, galls. ...	3,619	4,602	983	—
Sugar, bags ...	1,804	2,214	410	—
Tobacco ...	1,634	1,745	111	—
Wine, galls. ...	3,067	3,158	91	—
Total ...	51,567	67,685	17,745	1,627

The two principal items of increase, viz., beer and coals, are due to the increase in the garrison. The islanders also consume more beer than they used to.

MINES, MANUFACTURES, &C.

I regret nothing had been done during the year under report in the way of manufactures or experiments in that direction. The conditions which have made the Island a prison for the time being have not been favourable for the development of any industry likely to be of permanent benefit to the islanders.

The lace making to which I alluded in my last Report has received what I hope will prove only a temporary check. Unfortunately, as it assumed a promising position it was thrown back by the loss of the market in home-going steamers, which, owing to the plague at the Cape, had to be placed in quarantine.

The amount of money which has been circulating, owing to the war and the high rates of wages which have been given, will

render it difficult for some time to impress upon the people the necessity for starting some industry. There will be no lack of work in the Island for the next two or three years, as the Colonial Government have the drainage of the town in hand and the Imperial Government have yet to build the barracks for the troops which are to be stationed at Deadwood, so labourers will be in demand and prices will keep up. Afterwards the former stagnation may set in and then the need for some local industry will be felt.

However great the advantages of climate and soil, any industry connected with agriculture must be starved for want of sufficient suitable land. The finest soil in the Island is under grass for pasturage, and seldom it is that any comes to the auctioneer's hammer, otherwise a few hundred acres, if put under coffee, ought to bring the owner substantial profit.

The coffee is of a fine quality and the trees bear well, but the cultivation is not carried out on a scale large enough to make it pay.

There are good years and bad years in coffee, and 1901 was a bumper year. Out of a small plantation of about a couple of hundred trees in the Government House grounds we obtained 500 lbs. of dried coffee. In the present year we have had only a very small quantity.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

Market gardening has been most profitable during the time the prisoners of war have been in the Island, for the demand for fresh vegetables has been greater than the supply, and consequently prices have been very high, but, unfortunately, we had a long period of drought which caused much loss in green crops.

My own energies have been devoted to the establishment of nurseries for young trees at Plantation under the charge of a young German gardener, a prisoner of war. Some thousands of young seedlings, chiefly of various species of eucalyptus, were planted out in beds and offered for sale at low prices, but the drought above-mentioned caused the loss of a large number, especially as I had to stop irrigation on account of the failure of the springs, every drop of water being required for the needs of the garrison at Ladder Hill. A good many young trees were, however, sold at prices ranging from 3*d.* per foot in height.

A large number of cuttings of a species of evergreen fig were prepared for planting in rocky places on the road from Jamestown to Plantation, where holes have been dug for them. This tree, which is large and umbrageous, grows readily from stakes about three feet long by three inches in diameter.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 332.

SAINT LUCIA.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 311.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September 1901.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
308	Leeward Islands	1899
309	St. Helena	"
310	British Honduras	"
311	St. Lucia... ..	"
312	St. Vincent	"
313	Basutoland	1899-1900
314	Hong Kong	1899
315	Southern Nigeria	1899-1900
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899-1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899-1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados... ..	"
327	Bahamas	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies... ..	Medical Reports.

ST. LUCIA
1900.

No. 332.

SAINT LUCIA.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 311.)

ADMINISTRATOR SIR HARRY THOMPSON to GOVERNOR
SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

Government House,
Saint Lucia,
July 30, 1901.

SIR,
I HAVE the honour to transmit my Report on the Blue
Book for 1900.

I have, &c.,

HARRY THOMPSON,
Administrator.

Governor Sir R. B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., &c.,
Grenada.

ST. LUCIA,
1900.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1900.

FINANCIAL.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue for the year amounted to £72,197 15s. 1d., which was £6,150 13s. 9d. in excess of the estimated revenue, and exceeded the revenue of last year (up to then the largest revenue collected in the history of the Colony) by £628 11s. 5d.

The following table shows the revenue of the Colony for the last five years :—

Year.			Amount.
			£
1896	...	...	55,331
1897	...	...	60,639
1898	...	...	67,628
1899	...	...	71,479
1900	...	...	72,107

Every head of revenue showed an increase over that of the previous year with the exception of that for Miscellaneous services, which was abnormally large in 1899 owing to special receipts in connection with the frauds in the spirit warehouse discovered in that year. The sum actually paid over for the Imperial Grant in Aid of Agriculture was also £175 less than in 1899.

The largest increase of revenue was under port, harbour, &c., dues. It amounted to £2,221 and was due to the large number of steamers which visited the port during the year.

The Customs Revenue remained at a high figure in consequence of the continuation of the collection of the additional 15 per cent. duty during the whole of the year.

The original estimate of expenditure was £65,957 1s. 4d., which was increased by supplementary votes in the course of the year to £67,733 16s. 8d. The actual expenditure was £64,749 18s. 1d. or £7,357 17s. 0d. less than the revenue. ST. LUCIA,
1900.

Most of the heads of expenditure showed a small increase over that of last year, but there was a considerable saving in the Immigration Department owing to abolition of most of the offices on the termination of the indentured service of the immigrants.

The Public Works undertaken during the year were of a limited description and the expenditure on them was £1,440 less than in 1899.

The largest increase in expenditure was under the head "Miscellaneous" and was due to the refund to the Land Sales Fund of £1,000 temporarily transferred to general revenue in 1896, to the wiping off of the debt of the Choiseul Village Fund, amounting to £259 11s. 4d., and to a grant of £100 to the sufferers in the fire at Ottawa.

The expenditure on agriculture was much in excess of that of 1899 and was chiefly incurred in permanent improvements to the Botanic Station.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AND PUBLIC DEBT.

The balance sheet of the Colony at the close of 1900 showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of £18,554 2s. 4d., having been increased during the year by the excess of revenue over expenditure.

The Public Debt of the Colony at the close of 1900 amounted to £176,679 11s. 0d., made up as follows :—

—				Amount.		
				£	s.	d.
Inscribed Stock	...	...		85,479	11	0
Debentures	...	...	...	91,500	0	0
Total	...	...		176,679	11	0

Of this sum £17,000 of inscribed stock has been borrowed for the Castries Town Board and £5,900 of inscribed stock and £6,000 debentures for the Immigration Fund. During the year £10,500 debentures were redeemed, which included the wiping off of the loan of £8,000 raised in 1891 for immigration purposes.

ST. LUCIA,
1900.
—

The Sinking Funds of the Colony are reduced by the amount of the Sinking Fund of the last mentioned loan, and the total of the Sinking Funds now stands as follows :—

—		Amount.
		£ s. d.
For Inscribed Stock ...	...	4,167 14 11
For Debentures ...	...	897 9 8

TRADE.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of the imports into the Colony was £403,592 as compared with £282,963 in 1899, or an increase of 42 per cent. A very large proportion of this increase is to be attributed to increased importation of stores of all sorts for the use of the Military Authorities.

There are not many items in the list which call for much comment, and, excluding the special importations for military works, the consumption of the various articles of Import remained at about the same figure as in 1899.

With regard to the source of our imports we received £220,825 from the United Kingdom, or nearly 55 per cent. of the total imports. This was an increase of 41 per cent. over the figures of 1899, and a large portion is due to military stores.

From the United States our imports were £124,263 or nearly 31 per cent. of our total imports. There was an increase of 45 per cent. in our imports from this source over those of 1899, but the proportion of the total imports remained about the same.

Coal was responsible for nearly the whole of the increase, and the figures for the coal trade for the last ten years are interesting.

In 1891 there were 34,079 tons of bunker coal exported, valued at £51,118, and this represented about 28 per cent. of the total exports of the Colony.

In 1900 there were 100,055 tons of bunker coal exported, valued at £124,554, and it represented about 54 per cent. of the total exports.

The growth of the coaling trade during the last ten years has, therefore, been very large, and it might be supposed that our

market was worth competing for, but from the following figures it will be seen that the trade has been surrendered to the United States almost without a struggle. St. Lucia,
1900.

In 1891, of the coal imported for the trade, 88 per cent. came from the United Kingdom, and 12 per cent. only from the United States. In 1900 the figures stood at 16 per cent. from the United Kingdom and 84 per cent. from the United States. The difference in price must no doubt have always been an important factor in the competition, but in spite of this advantage in favour of the American product English coal appears to have held its own fairly well for several years in the proportion of about 65 per cent. of English to 35 per cent. of American. It was only in 1898, after the coal strike in the United Kingdom, when English coal was practically unprocurable, that the American product took the lead, and it is now so firmly established that but few ships besides men-of-war take any other.

The imports from France stood at almost exactly the same figure as they did in 1899.

The slight increase which appears in the imports from British Colonies is due to the specie imported from them.

On the whole the main feature of the increase in the import trade, excluding military stores, is rather in the value of the articles imported than in the volume of trade.

Exports.

The value of the export trade for the year was £229,436 against £170,668 in 1899, or an increase of 34 per cent.

The increase is chiefly attributable to the bunker coal which, I have already mentioned, formed 54 per cent. of the total exports, and showed an increase of 72 per cent. over the exports in 1899.

The value of sugar and its products exported was £55,561 against £58,034 in 1899. It represented 24 per cent. of the total exports in 1900 and 34 per cent. in 1899.

The direction of our sugar trade is illustrated by the following table :—

—				1899.	1900.
				Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom	...	..	...	6	26
United States	...	...	...	91	71
Other places	...	...	...	3	3

**ST. LUCIA,
1900.**
—

The increase in the trade with the United Kingdom was due to the fact that almost the whole of the sugar^s from the Dennery Factory was sent there instead of to the United States.

The export of cocoa, the produce of the Colony, showed a most satisfactory increase both in quantity and value. So far as I can find, it is the largest export of cocoa which there has been in any year in the history of the Colony.

The quantity exported was 1,298,100 lbs., valued at £38,247. It represented nearly 17 per cent. of the total exports. 16 per cent. of the crop went to the United Kingdom, and 84 per cent. to France.

The other minor items of export call for no comment. The direction of our trade during the year was chiefly noticeable for a falling off in the value of exports to the United States, which was chiefly due to the diversion of the Dennery sugar to the English market. The exports to the United States in 1900 were £39,630 against £53,006 in 1899, or a decrease of 25 per cent. In 1899 the United States took 30 per cent. of our total exports, while in 1900 they took 17 per cent. only.

The exports to the United Kingdom were valued at £23,519 as compared with £20,423 in 1899, or an increase in actual value of 15 per cent., but they represented only 10 per cent. of the total exports as compared with 12 per cent. in 1899.

In consequence of the large proportion of the cocoa crop which went to France the exports to that country show a very large increase, from £16,824 in 1899 to £32,352 in 1900.

SHIPPING.

1,857 vessels, with a tonnage of 1,841,593, entered and cleared at Castries. Of these 1,240 with a tonnage of 1,812,316 were steamers, and the British vessels were 1,481 with a tonnage of 1,518,174.

BOTANIC STATION.

The improvements in the Botanic Station were continued, and a neat iron fence with an entrance gate was erected. Pipes were laid on for supplying the nurseries from the new town water supply, and the work of raising economic plants for distribution continued.

A further course of instruction in elementary agricultural principles was given to the teachers of elementary schools.

The most important work, however, in connection with the Department of Agriculture was the selection of sites for experimental plots in various parts of the Island. The year was somewhat advanced before the final selection was made and but little work was, therefore, done on them. I look forward to most excellent results from these practical examples of model cultivation all over the Colony, not only to the small cultivators but also to the large land holders and their employees.

St. Lucia,
1900.

Although no final decision was come to during the year the site for the Agricultural School and the Experimental Station in connection with it was practically determined.

The Agricultural Society, with the assistance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, continued to do good work. An agricultural show was held at Dennery and the preliminaries for an important experiment in the cultivation of cotton were discussed, and the project was well advanced by the end of the year.

CROWN LANDS AND SURVEYS.

The Department continued to do much useful work during the year. 173 applications for land, amounting to 1,591 acres, were received, and there were 39 alienations of land of 623½ acres, valued at £658 11s. 6d.

17 cases of escheat for a total area of 3,252 acres were settled during the year.

The revenue of the department was £2,323 16s. 6d., including the refund of £1,000 from general revenue already referred to, and the expenditure was £1,685 14s. 11d., of which £613 1s. 4d. was voted on the estimates and paid from general revenue.

The important question of forest conservation is properly forming an important feature in the work of the department, and I am glad to learn that great care is now exercised in allotting land so that the main sources of the water supply may be preserved.

On the whole I think that the department has continued to do useful work and to have the confidence of the purchasers of land.

CASTRIES TOWN BOARD.

The revenue of the Castries Town Board for the year was £5,993 8s. 7d., and the expenditure £5,516 8s. 4d. Of the revenue £2,451 14s. 2d. was derived from the sale of water to

ST. LUCIA, ships, an amount far in excess both of that derived from the
1900. same source in 1899, and of the anticipated receipt, in consequence of the number of ships which called.

The Market Dues brought in £1,213 8s. 8d., showing a small increase over last year.

The new water works gave an ample supply of water to the town, but owing to the continued uncertainty of the direction which legislation for their management would take, no steps were taken during the year for its distribution.

LEGISLATION.

Eleven Ordinances were passed during the year, of which perhaps the most important was "The Agricultural Schools Ordinance" which lays down the principles on which the Agricultural School in the Colony is to be conducted. A useful Ordinance was passed by which a fund is established which enables the Colony to insure its own public buildings.

The importation of, and dealing with, petroleum were also regulated, and provision was made for taking a census during this year.

EDUCATION.

There were 42 assisted schools in operation during the year, of which one was closed in October. The number of children on the rolls of the assisted schools was 6,365, and the average attendance was 3,433. Both these figures compare favourable with those of last year. The grants in aid to these schools amounted to £3,138 4s. 10d., or slightly more than in the previous year.

It is estimated that there must be about 8,000 children of school age, i.e., between six and 14, and from particulars obtained from the masters of both assisted and unassisted elementary schools, and from the secondary schools in Castries, there appear to be 5,070 of these children on the rolls of the schools.

These figures show that there is still a good deal to be done to make education as general as it should be. The St. Mary's college for boys and the school of the convent of St. Joseph for girls continued to perform useful work, and the success of the pupils at the Cambridge local examinations was a proof of the careful education they are receiving.

A scholarship at Harrison's college in Barbados, offered by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for competition in the

Windward Islands, was gained by a boy from the St. Mary's college. ST. LUCIA,
1900.

A new code for primary schools, embracing among other things an improved system of industrial education, was prepared during the year, but was still under consideration at the end of the year.

HOSPITALS.

From the reports of the medical officers, it appears that 5,025 persons availed themselves of the accommodation provided by the hospitals and other institutions during the year, and there were 30,965 attendances at the various dispensaries.

There were 1,842 persons admitted to the Victoria hospital, of whom 906 were East Indian immigrants, 469 natives of other places, and 40 seamen; so that if it were not for our foreign population this, as well as other institutions in the Colony, might be maintained on a very much smaller scale.

In the Poor asylum there was a daily average of 58 and the death rate was 28·4. Attention is again called in the reports to the miserable condition of this building, and I am glad to say that steps are being taken to improve matters.

Owing to absences, transfers, and sickness, the medical department was often very short handed and difficulty was experienced in providing for the work in the various districts.

On the whole the health of the Colony was good, and there were no epidemics which call for special remark. Malarial fevers still occupy the most prominent position in the list of diseases.

The colonial surgeon calls attention to some serious surgical operations successfully performed by Dr. Gray at the Victoria hospital, and interesting special reports by that officer on malaria and mosquitos, and by Dr. Galgey on *filaria sanguinis hominis*, in continuation of former reports, attest the interest taken by them in the work of their profession.

SAVINGS BANK.

The savings bank figures continue to show an increase, and the balance to the credit of depositors at the 31st December amounted to £14,418 16s. 5d., as compared with £13,884 9s. 11d. at the 31st December 1899.

St. Lucia, 1900. The amount was distributed among the savings banks as follows :—

—			Amount.		
			£	s.	d.
First District	...	...	13,883	7	11
Second District	...	...	321	15	10
Third District	...	...	213	12	8

and was divided among 1,403 depositors.

The invested funds of the bank amounted to £13,416 14s. 11d.

The interest credited to depositors was £375 4s. 0d.

To make up the difference between the income derived from invested funds and the expenses of the institution a contribution from general revenue of £77 11s. 7d. was required.

It is a question how far the general revenue should be called upon to make this contribution, and the matter is now under consideration.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

One society was registered during the year, bringing the number of them up to five. The total membership at the end of 1900 was 638, and the total funds of the societies £635 3s. 7d.

On the whole the societies seem to have been carefully managed, and though they are still working on a very small scale show signs of progress.

POLICE.

Of the police force not much can be said. The work of the force continued to increase, and its strength remained at the same number that it has for many years past. Such a state of affairs could only result in complaints both from the public and the police authorities. Soon after the close of the year, it was thought advisable to have an enquiry into the police, and I trust that the recommendations of the commission which was appointed may have the effect of making the force a more useful body.

PRISONS.

ST. LUCIA,
1900
—

The limited accommodation of the prison continued to be severely taxed during the year.

Though the actual number of prisoners admitted during the year was only 28 in excess of last year, the average daily number in prison rose from 58.94 to 75.26.

Of the prisoners admitted 468 males and 180 females were convicted prisoners, and nearly 50 per cent. of each were natives of places other than St. Lucia, including soldiers and merchant seamen.

The most regrettable incident in connection with the prison was the occurrence of no less than three suicides during the year. The circumstances formed the subject of an enquiry in each case and a special enquiry was held early this year. I am glad to say that nothing was found in the prison management to which these regrettable cases could be attributed.

25109

The circumstances of the Colony are such that an increase in the prison population must naturally be expected and an increase in accommodation will no doubt be necessary before long. For the moment we are sending our long-sentence prisoners to Grenada and thus relieving the congestion.

The health of the prisoners was fairly good and one death only occurred in addition to the three cases of suicide already mentioned.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported and of persons prosecuted were both slightly higher than in 1899, while the number of persons convicted in the inferior Courts was slightly less.

The number of cases in the Royal Court was higher than it has been for the last five years. 48 cases were sent up for trial by the magistrates, of which 38 were actually tried.

32 were convicted and six acquitted, and of those convicted 16 only were natives of St. Lucia.

Though the statistics show a considerable increase in crime during the last few years I do not think that they are altogether unsatisfactory when it is considered what large numbers of people have come into the Island. I think that an even larger increase might not unnaturally have been expected, and the fact that there has been plenty of work for all who wish to find it, has no doubt had its effect in keeping employed those who might otherwise have been inclined to mischief.

ST. LUCIA,
1900.

POST OFFICE.

The business of the department continued to increase in almost every direction, as appears from the tables in the Blue Book, but there is nothing in the transactions for the year that calls for much comment.

TELEPHONES.

The Telephone System which was completed in 1896 from loan funds began to show evident signs of wear during the year, with the result that communication with the outstations was interrupted very frequently. As far as funds would allow, the wooden posts which collapsed were replaced by iron rails, which, though not sightly objects, will be far more permanent.

I am afraid that the time has come when our expenditure on the maintenance of the lines must increase if they are to be kept in a serviceable condition.

PUBLIC WORKS.

No very important public work was undertaken during the year, but the work of maintenance of roads and buildings continued and many improvements were effected.

The Public Works Yard and Offices, which covered a considerable area, were concentrated on one lot, and the remaining three lots were disposed of by tender for £4,357. Work was begun on the piling of the Prince Alfred Basin, and a sum of £691 13s. 10d. was expended as a first instalment.

Iron railings were erected at the Botanic Station at the cost of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Dredging was carried on in the Castries Harbour for eight months with the Priestman Dredger, when the pontoon broke down and work had to be suspended. Dredging was chiefly done on the shoal at the N.E. corner of the harbour.

On roads and bridges the chief separate work was a fine wooden bridge over the Anse Canot River, which was erected at a cost of £326.

Out of the vote for maintenance of roads £3,987 was spent, and besides the ordinary work of maintenance the following work was done which tended to the permanent improvement of the roads :—

- 6 retaining walls.
- 3 bridges.
- 92 stone culverts.
- 394 concrete cylinders laid.
- 14,550 feet of new macadam.

From the Crown Lands Fund the following roads for the development of Crown Lands were continued and maintained at the cost stated :—

ST. LUCIA,
1900.

			£	s.	d.
Trois Pitons to Pilet	...	...	100	0	0
Ravine Souffre	...	...	60	0	0
Micoud to Soufrière	...	...	198	18	4

The total mileage maintained was 253.

Though much no doubt remains to be done to improve the internal communications of the Colony, I think that there is a general agreement that the improvement during the last ten years has been very great. When it is considered that the estimates for the maintenance of the road prepared by the Road Boards amounted to over £13,000 and we were able to allot them £4,000 only, I think that those bodies may be congratulated on the manner in which they have accepted a difficult situation and made the best of it.

£1,042 was spent on current repairs, and extensive repairs were done to Government House (including painting), Victoria Hospital, Vigie Lighthouse, Vieux-Fort Hospital, and the Police Barracks.

£263 was spent on the maintenance of the wharves, but I foresee that in future years we shall have to provide for a much larger expenditure on them.

Owing to restricted means it has not been possible to devote as much to this work as was necessary, and I fear that a larger expenditure may now be required than would have been necessary if the wharves had been regularly maintained.

The work yard continued to perform useful work, and out of the profits it was possible to purchase new steam machinery at a cost of £226.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The registered births during the year were 1,995, an increase of 130 over last year. The average birth-rate was 3·80, as compared with 3·54 in 1899.

The percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births was slightly in favour of 1900 as compared with 1899. The figures were :—Legitimate, 42·91 ; illegitimate, 57·09.

The deaths were 942, or a rate of 1·93 as compared with 2·14 in 1899.

Allowing for the natural increase, the population at the end of the year was estimated at 49,558, and that this was not very wide of the mark is proved by the results of the census taken in April of this year, which showed a total population of 49,895.

It is to be noted that it was the first year in the history of the Colony in which there was no recorded death from snake bite.

St. Lucia,
1900.

METEOROLOGY.

The only noticeable point in the meteorology of the year was the very small rainfall. It amounted at the botanical station to 73·25 inches only, and is, I believe, the smallest rainfall of which we have any record except that of 1891, when 70·15 inches only were recorded.

There has been a steady decrease in the rainfall for the last six years, and this has been attributed by some to the persistent felling of the forests during these years. Looking to the records of the past years, I do not think that those for recent years are sufficient to justify a definite opinion on the point, but the matter requires careful watching.

GENERAL.

The year under review may be regarded as one of continued prosperity for St. Lucia, and I think I may fairly say that it was on the whole the most prosperous year in the history of the Colony since the time when sugar was supreme.

There were no convulsions of nature, such as hurricanes or earthquakes, and no misfortunes, such as large fires in populous places. The cocoa crop was the largest ever exported, and the prices obtained for it were good; the sugar crop was a fair one with remunerative prices; the coal trade was by far the largest done in any year since the establishment of Castries as a coaling station, and there was a large expenditure on military works which provided remunerative employment to a large number of people, and caused the circulation of considerable sums of money.

After so short a residence in the Colony it is perhaps presumptuous on my part to attempt to say what is necessary for the continued welfare of the Colony, but I should hope that at no distant date we may see our means of communication extended and improved, our public buildings made more suitable to the growing needs of the Colony and to the convenience of the public who have to resort to them, the cultivation of the land extended and taken up by those who now earn a precarious livelihood, often at the cost of their own health, by visiting the Cayenne Gold Fields, and last, but by no means least, such necessary maintenance and improvement of the harbour as will ensure that the successful trade which has been built up with so much spirit and energy may not be tempted to move to some other place which may for a time appear to offer greater attractions.

St. Lucia seems now to be established in a career of prosperity, and I can foresee nothing in the near future which is likely to interfere with it.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 350.

ST. VINCENT.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899 see No. 312.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
March, 1902.



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1902.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
329	Malta	1900
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia	"
333	Seychelles	"
334	Falkland Islands	"
335	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
336	British New Guinea	1899-1900
337	Leeward Islands... ..	1900
338	Trinidad and Tobago	"
339	British Honduras	"
340	Hong Kong	"
341	Ceylon	"
342	Gibraltar... ..	1900
343	Basutoland	1900-1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900-1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900-1901

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.

No. 350.

ST. VINCENT,
1900.

ST. VINCENT.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 312.)

ADMINISTRATOR CAMERON to GOVERNOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN.

Government House, St. Vincent,

December 14, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to Your Excellency herewith my report on the Blue Book for the year 1900.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD J. CAMERON,

Administrator.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF ST. VINCENT
FOR THE YEAR 1900.

I. FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following comparative statements and table give the heads of Revenue and Expenditure, and the amounts received under those heads for the years 1899 and 1900, as well as the total Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years, 1896-1900:—

10815*—75—1/1902 Wt 28616 D & S—5

A 2

ST. VINCENT,
1900.

Revenue.

Head of Revenue.		1900.		1899.		Increase.		Decrease.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1. Customs	...	14,849	16 1	15,845	10 5	—	—	996	14 4
2. Port, Harbour, &c. Dues	...	986	11 3	794	10 3	142	1 0	—	—
3. Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue	...	8,847	13 7	7,692	11 9	1,155	1 10	—	—
4. Fees of Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimburse- ments in aid.	...	683	19 3	608	14 9	75	4 6	—	—
5. Post Office	...	1,035	4 1	2,280	14 7	—	—	1,245	10 6
6. Telephones	...	444	15 7	429	3 3	15	12 4	—	—
7. Rent Government Property	...	58	6 6	45	3 6	13	3 0	—	—
8. Interest	...	1,194	0 0	1,360	19 9	—	—	166	19 9
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	...	261	8 6	123	5 0	138	3 6	—	—
10. Sales and Leases of Crown Lands	...	64	1 4	37	9 10	26	11 6	—	—
Total Local Revenue		28,375	16 2	29,218	3 1	1,565	17 8	2,408	4 7

10815	Parliamentary Grants—					
	Grant for Botanical Station and Agricultural School ...	2 050 0 0	775 0 0	1,275 0 0	—	
	Grant for damage caused by hurricane ...	—	25,000 0 0	—	25,000 0 0	
	Grant made in '98 in aid of General Revenue ...	—	5,000 0 0	—	5,000 0 0	
	Grant to meet Estimated deficit for January, February and March, '99	—	300 0 0	—	300 0 0	
	Appropriation from Hurricane Relief Fund for Hospital and Poor Relief.	—	3,000 0 0	—	3,000 0 0	
	Total General Revenue ...	30,425 16 2	63,293 3 1	2,840 17 8	35,708 4 7	

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	1900.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	£ s. d. 1,789 0 0	£ s. d. 1,835 5 0	£ s. d. —	£ s. d. 46 5 0
2 Pensions ...	2,625 2 2	2,454 12 6	170 9 8	—
3. The Governor and Legislature ...	1,022 6 0	820 8 10	201 17 2	—

ST. VINCENT
1900.

ST. VINCENT,
1900.

Expenditure—continued.

Head of Expenditure.	1900.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
4. Colonial Secretary, Treasury, and Customs ...	2,012 17 2	1,900 6 7	112 10 7	—
5. Audit Department ...	304 13 2	311 7 0	—	6 13 10
6. Education ...	2,085 17 2	2,050 14 10	35 2 4	—
7. Legal Departments ...	2,552 2 6	2,610 16 5	—	58 13 11
8. Police and Excise ...	2,842 16 9	2,850 15 10	—	7 19 1
9. Prisons ...	463 14 9	426 9 8	37 5 1	—
10. Medical Department ...	1,778 12 6	1,618 2 3	160 10 3	—
11. Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	3,772 7 1	4,346 2 9	—	573 15 8
12. Charitable ...	1,742 5 10	2,962 17 5	—	1,220 11 7
13. Post Office ...	1,361 3 5	1,299 5 7	61 17 10	—
14. Telephone Department ...	334 6 11	358 18 7	—	24 11 8
16. Public Works Department ...	415 18 4	1,172 17 7	—	128 18 2
17. Crown Lands and Survey Department ...	628 1 1		—	—

ST. VINCENT,
1900.

10815	18. Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,389 18 11	1,871 6 6	—	481 7 7
	19. Public Works—Recurrent	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,193 0 2	1,342 16 2	—	149 16 0
	20. Do. Do. —Extraordinary	...	...	...	...	...	...	766 16 4	88 18 2	677 18 2	—
	Totals...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29,081 0 3	30,322 1 8	1,457 11 1	2,698 12 6
	Expenditure from Parliamentary Grants.										
	15. Botanical Station and Agricultural School	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,193 13 0	847 8 4	346 4 8	—
	Agricultural Instruction	...	...	...	...	...	...	119 14 1	—	119 14 1	—
	15A. Erection of Agricultural School	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,505 17 8	—	1,505 17 8	—
	21. Special Hurricane Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,220 7 1	16,686 2 11	—	12,465 15 10
	Totals...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,120 12 1	47,855 12 11	3,429 7 6	15,164 8 4

ST. VINCENT
1900.

Total Revenue and Expenditure for five years 1896-1900.

Year.	Revenue.		Expenditure	
	—	Total.	—	Total.
1896.	Local 26,487	26,487	Local 27,591	27,591
	Imperial Grant —		Imperial Grant —	
1897.	Local 24,845	24,845	Local 27,866	27,866
	Imperial Grant —		Imperial Grant —	
1898.	Local 26,901	26,901	Local 27,674	27,674
	Imperial Grant —		Imperial Grant —	
1899.	Local 29,218	63,293	Local 30,322	47,855
	Imperial Grant 34,075		Imperial Grant 17,533	
1900.	Local 28,376	30,426	Local 29,081	36,121
	Imperial Grant 2,050		Imperial Grant 7,040	

The total local Revenue of the Colony for the year under review was £28,376, being £3,457 in excess of the Estimate, though £842 less than the similar Revenue of 1899.

The gross Revenue, including the Imperial Parliamentary Grant for Botanic Station and Agricultural School, was £30,426.

Importations of foodstuffs, &c., were still above the average of past years, as a sequel of the hurricane of 1898, though not so large as in the year immediately succeeding that disastrous event. Post Office Revenue was abnormal in 1899, owing to the introduction of a new issue of Postage and Revenue Stamps, the demand for which has now considerably slackened.

The Expenditure in 1900, exclusive of the Parliamentary Grant, amounted to £29,081, being £987 less than estimated, and £1,241 less than the sum expended in 1899, a result attributable mainly to reduction in the outlay required on Poor Relief and Hospitals. The gross Expenditure was £36,121.

St. Vincent,
1900.
—

(B.) TAXATION.

No changes took place during the year under review.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The excess of Assets over Liabilities, as shown in the annexed statement, is nominally £4,414, but this includes £4,094, the unexpended balance of the Imperial Grant-in-Aid of the damage done by the hurricane, which is being disbursed during the current year.

St. VINCENT,
1900

Year ended 31st

ASSETS.					
			£	s.	d.
Cash in Treasury Chest				13	4 8
Colonial Bank on Current Account ...			1,132	6	5
Investments (Savings Bank Funds) ...			8,500	0	0
LOANS FROM GENERAL REVENUE :					
Georgetown Extension Loan			180	0	0
„ Water Works Loan			268	12	1
Chateaubelair Latrine			55	17	2
				504	9 3
ADVANCES :					
Roads and Land Settlement*			6,440	2	0
Hurricane Loan Account			3,074	18	0
Kingstown Fund			131	10	10
Town of Georgetown			6	13	9
Town of Layou					4
Other Advances			374	4	8
				10,027	9 7
Total Assets †				£20,177	9 11

* £12,209 14 0 of the Imperial Grant-in-Aid for these purposes is on
† The Public Debt is £14,470. of which £5,000 is provided for by an
The Colony is also responsible for the Hurricane Loan to planters
‡ Exclusive of £769 4 9 advanced for Botanic Station, Agricultural
Buildings, in excess of payments from Imperial Funds at 31st
§ This Surplus includes £4,093 10 0 unexpended balance of Imperial

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

December 1900.

ST. VINCENT,
1900.

LIABILITIES.					
		£	s.	d.	£ s. d.
DEPOSITS:					
Savings Bank Account ...	...	10,593	10	2	
Post Office „ ...	...	173	7	10	
Immigration Fund ...	...	78	6	9	
Graham Bequest Fund ...	...	72	10	11	
Police Reward „ ...	...	53	8	2	
Mesopotamia Byeway Fund ...	...	59	12	0	
Hurricane Relief „ ...	...	166	19	10	
Town of Barronallie ...	...	2	10	7	
Town of Chateaubelair... ..	...	2	4		
Hurricane Loan Special Fund ...	...	69	10	1	
Sundry Deposits... ..	...	173	8	6	
					11,443 7 2
INTERCOLONIAL ACCOUNTS .					
Government of Grenada ...	...	441	18	2	
„ „ St Lucia ...	...	18	4	1	
					460 2 3
CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES :					
Current Account ...	...	584	1	5	
Drafts maturing... ..	...	3,276	7	0	
					3,860 8 5
Total Liabilities † ...					15,763 17 10
Excess of Assets § ...					4,413 12 1
					£20,177 9 11

deposit with the Crown Agents for the Colonies.
Imperial Grant, held by the Crown Agents for the Colonies.
from The Imperial Treasury, which at 31st December 1900 was £13,000.
School, Agricultural Instruction, and erection of Agricultural School
December 1900.
Grant of £25,000 in aid of damage done by the hurricane of 1898.

St. Vincent,
1900.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony at the end of 1900 stood at £14,470. Of this sum, £5,000 is provided for by an Imperial Grant in the hands of the Crown Agents on deposit; £6,380 is repayable from the funds of the towns of Kingstown and Georgetown, and the actual amount to be paid from Colonial Revenue is thus—£3,120, which is being repaid at the rate of £560 per annum.

The Colony is further responsible to the Imperial Government for repayment of a sum of £16,026, loaned to planters to enable them to restore works and buildings destroyed by the hurricane of 1898. Repayment of this sum is provided for by Ordinance, and is made to extend over 23 years.

(E.) CURRENCY.

Gold, American and British, Colonial Bank Notes, with British Silver and Copper, constitute the currency of the island.

The Government's Accounts are kept in Sterling, and Commercial Accounts in Dollars and Cents.

(F.) and (G.) FINANCES OF MUNICIPALITIES OR PUBLIC BOARDS.

The management and control of the affairs of the town of Kingstown are vested in a Board, half of whom are elected by the ratepayers and the other half nominated by the Government. The small towns of the Colony are controlled by Wardens, annually appointed by the Government.

The following comparative statement gives the total Revenue and Expenditure of these towns for the last five years:—

Revenue.

Town.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	£	£	£	£	£
Kingstown	2,017	1,985	1,848	2,082*	1,961
Georgetown	262	242	219	52	120
Chateaubelair	43	38	29	18	25
Calliaqua	42	37	4	19	13
Barruallie	34	25	—†	6	38
Layou... ..	20	26	11	2	15
Bequia	16	10	3	—†	6

* Includes amount (£93) transferred from Imperial Grant for damage caused by hurricane.

† No assessment in consequence of destruction caused by hurricane.

‡ Account books destroyed by hurricane.

*Expenditure.*ST. VINCENT,
1900.

Town.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	£	£	£	£	£
Kingstown	2,132	2,085	1,985	2,187	1,902
Georgetown	264	188	275	48	133
Chateaubelair	33	47	26	21	26
Calliaqua	41	36	5	21	36
Barrouallie	95	25	—*	10	36
Layou	19	27	10	2	16
Boquia	16	11	3	—	3

* Account books destroyed by hurricane.

Debts of Towns.

The debts of the towns are as follows:—

Kingstown Water Supply	£5,100
„ Town Improvement	600
	£5,700
Georgetown Water Supply	650
Total	£6,350

Provision for repayment of these Loans is made by rates levied annually on the townspeople, and the debts are secured on the General Revenue of the Colony. The Kingstown Water Supply Loan is being repaid at the rate of £400 per annum, the Town Improvement Loan at the rate of £150 per annum, and the Georgetown Loan by annual instalments of £50.

The time for repayment of the Kingstown Improvement Loan has had to be extended during the current year in consequence of the insufficiency of the town's Revenue to meet the calls upon it.

ST. VINCENT,
1900.

II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following comparative statements give the value of the chief articles of Import and Export in 1899 and 1900 and the totals for the last five years:—

Imports.

Chief Articles.	Value.	
	1899.	1900.
	£	£
Class I.—		
Biscuits	1,856	1,426
Butter	1,636	1,706
Fish, salted, &c.	5,836	5,230
Flour, wheaten	17,280	11,212
Flour, other kind	2,151	1,101
Pork, salted, &c.	2,326	2,624
Rice	3,114	2,598
Salt	1,627	497
Sugar, Muscovado	2,555	980
Tobacco, cigars, &c.	1,010	993
Class II.—		
Manures	490	697
Petroleum oil	943	1,563
Timber and shingles	11,804	10,471
Class III.—		
Textile manufactures, other than rope, cordage, and canvas.	16,113	20,232
Metal, manufactured	8,138	7,229
Boots and shoes	1,013	1,399
Cement	1,628	732
Soap... ..	1,316	1,551

*Exports.*ST. VINCENT
1900.

Articles.	1899.	1900.
Sugar (Muscovado)	£ 415	£ 6,910
Rum	234	800
Molasses	—	560
Arrowroot	22,457	74,748
Cassava starch	482	2,280
Cocoa	116	1,411
Fruit and vegetables	788	1,097
Whale oil	482	611
Ground nuts	170	465
Live stock and poultry	2,643	3,013
Cotton and cotton seed	352	381
Firewood	363	339
Ground provisions and minor products	1,030	1,897

Totals for five years, 1896-1900:—

Imports.

Classes.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
I. Live animals, food, drink, &c.	£ 31,838	£ 32,684	£ 40,931	£ 50,765	£ 39,900
II. Raw materials... ..	10,020	9,044	14,399	15,391	15,398
III. Manufactured articles	29,632	29,095	32,979	37,471	40,893
IV. Coin and bullion* ...	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	71,490	70,823	88,309	103,627	96,191

* No returns.

ST. VINCENT,
1900.*Exports.*

Classes.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
I. Live animals, food, drink, &c.	£ 61,528	£ 63,705	£ 40,008	£ 28,418	£ 91,154
II. Raw materials... ..	2,308	1,632	1,054	3,133	1,452
III. Manufactured articles	3,556	3,598	3,604	2,024	5,163
IV. Coin and bullion* ...	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	67,392	68,935	44,666	33,575	97,769

* No returns.

The volume and direction of the Colony's trade in the five years, 1896-1900, are shown below :—

Imports.

—	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
United Kingdom	£ 29,847	£ 28,358	£ 27,291	£ 29,241	£ 35,538
British Colonies	31,667	34,908	44,812	52,046	35,882
Foreign Countries	9,975	7,558	16,205	22,340	24,771
Totals	71,489	70,824	88,308	103,627	96,191

Exports.

—	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
United Kingdom	£ 21,131	£ 20,432	£ 14,176	£ 19,383	£ 71,584
British Colonies	15,851	21,945	14,260	10,812	14,584
Foreign Countries	30,410	26,557	16,230	3,380	11,601
Totals	67,392	68,934	44,666	33,575	97,769

The decrease in the value of Imports as compared with the previous year was the natural result of the Colony's return to a more normal condition, the Imports in 1899 having been largely in excess of the average owing to the necessity for repairs and other replenishings as a consequence of the hurricane of 1898.

The increase in value of Exports is similarly a result of the Colony's gradual recovery from the effects of that hurricane. The values, however, of the arrowroot export in the returns in both years are misleading. The 14,000 barrels of 1899 probably realised £40,000 to £45,000, or double the figures given, while the 25,000 barrels of 1900 cannot have brought much more than £50,000. The high prices of 1899 led to a large over-production in 1900, and a continuance of such conditions cannot but have a baneful effect on the industry. Efforts are, however, at the present time being made by proprietors to form a combination to restrict the output. The increase of minor products such as cassava starch, live stock, and ground provisions is a hopeful sign.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

Nil.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATION.

Agriculture.

The main and most serious feature to be noted under this head appears to be the unwise over-production and shipment of arrowroot, glutting the London market and resulting in a reduction of the price realised to a figure at which the cultivation of the plant is practically unremunerative.

Sugar and rum are no longer produced to any considerable extent.

Cocoa cultivation is being extended, and will, it is hoped, prove an important factor in raising the fallen fortunes of the Island.

Loans to the extent of £16,026 were granted to Planters from the Imperial Treasury under the provisions of "The Hurricane Loan Ordinance," and re-erection of or repairs to estate works and buildings destroyed or damaged by the 1898 hurricane were carried on pretty generally throughout the Island.

The Land Settlement or Peasant Proprietor Scheme made substantial progress during the year, and from the Leeward Acquired Estates large quantities of provisions and some quantity of small stock are now shipped in small vessels to St. Lucia and Trinidad.

Botanical Station.

The expenditure on this is defrayed from an Imperial Grant, and good work was done throughout the year in distribution of

ST. VINCENT plants to the Peasant Proprietors, and other encouragements
1900. afforded to minor industries.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

Nine applications for Crown Land were received during the year, and twenty-eight grants were issued for land in respect of which payments had been completed, the Land Tax Roll being thereby increased to the extent of 566 acres.

The present price of Crown Land, which is for the most part mountain land, is £1 an acre cash, and £2 if paid in instalments. There was no attempt during the year to recover from the peasantry the large outstanding arrears of Crown Land purchase money, but a beginning has since been made.

(E.) SHIPPING.

A table is annexed of the Steamers and Sailing Vessels, Inwards and Outwards, during 1899 and 1900, as also a comparative statement of total shipping for the last five years.

These figures do not include men-of-war, of which twelve (British) visited the Island during the year.

Sailing Vessels.

	1899.				1900.			
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	257	7,195	253	7,120	323	6,881	322	6,902
United States ...	5	1,753	4	1,638	5	1,333	5	1,333
Venezuelan ...	27	904	24	705	14	695	15	791
Dutch	12	857	16	1,066	9	860	8	763
French	1	53	1	115	—	—	2	29
Totals	302	10,762	298	10,644	351	9,769	352	9,818

*Steamers.*ST. VINCENT,
1900.

	1899.				1900.			
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	79	112,091	79	112,091	96	132,123	96	132,123
German	—	—	—	—	3	2,871	3	2,871
Venezuelan ...	—	—	—	—	1	83	1	83
Totals	79	112,091	79	112,091	100	135,077	100	135,077

Total shipping for last five years.

	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Inwards	Tons. 136,047	Tons. 123,937	Tons. 127,499	Tons. 122,853	Tons. 144,846
Outwards	137,198	124,940	127,326	122,735	144,895
Totals	273,245	248,877	254,825	245,588	289,741

III. LEGISLATION.

There were sixteen Ordinances during the year, the principal being the Customs Ordinance, a valuable measure of consolidation, and the Small Towns Ordinance, by which the Finances of these villages have been brought under an apparently much needed Treasury control.

ST. VINCENT,
1900.

IV. EDUCATION.

(A.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The results of primary education in 1899 and 1900 compare as follows:—

	1899.	1900.
Number of Schools ...	33	31
Number on Roll ...	6,027	6,000
Average Attendance ...	2,712	2,706
Government Grant-in-Aid...	£ 1,612	£ 1,667

The present condition of the Schools is far from satisfactory, but the whole system has been under consideration during the current year, and it is hoped that under the new Education Code now in preparation a better state of things will be gradually arrived at. The small sum of money available in view of the population to be served and the absence of any qualified Education Officer are factors which militate gravely against advancement.

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The Kingstown Grammar School for Boys and Girls is the only Secondary Educational establishment in the Colony. The curriculum of the school embraces the subjects required for the Cambridge Local Examinations and the annual examination is conducted by the Syndicate. The Government Grant to the school amounted to £141.

(C.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

An Agricultural School was established under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and with Imperial money during the year. The ground was selected and opened up in May. The School itself was opened in a temporary building with fifteen boys in September, and removed in October to the new buildings which had in the meantime been erected by the Public Works Department.

There are now some 24 boys at the School receiving a good serviceable training, including practical field work, and it is hoped that a useful class of young agriculturists will be turned

out in due course who will utilise the training they have received **St. VINCENT,**
in the development of their native land. **1900.**

The total cost of the School upkeep during the year was
£317.

V. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

The number of patients treated during the year was 552, of whom 287 were discharged cured, 155 relieved, 54 died, and 56 remained in Hospital. The daily average was 67 as against 60 in 1897, 96 in 1898, and 80 in 1899. A Commission of Enquiry into the administration of the Colonial Hospital, with Sir Francis Lovell, C.M.G., Surgeon-General of Trinidad, as Chairman, was appointed in the middle of the year, on whose finding and recommendations various abuses were stopped, a Resident Medical Officer and a Steward appointed, and a much more satisfactory and economical system of management introduced.

The small District Hospital at Georgetown received 21 patients during the year, of whom 12 were discharged cured, 7 improved, and 2 died.

(B.) ASYLUMS.

Lunatics.

A portion of the old Military Barrack at Fort Charlotte is set aside for temporary detention of Lunatics prior to their removal to the Asylum at Grenada.

Six lunatics were sent to Grenada during the year, making a total number under care there of 31, at a cost to the Colony of £651 per annum.

Lepers.

The number of inmates of the Leper Asylum at the opening of the year was 17; two fresh cases were admitted, and the daily average was 18.

The Asylum is not all that could be desired and its accommodation is limited, but it is all that the Colony can at present provide, and is fairly kept and economically managed.

(C.) POOR HOUSES.

The conditions at the Pauper Institution at Fort Charlotte, which had been found to be unsatisfactory, were carefully investigated, and a thorough re-organisation of all details of the

St. Vincent, 1900. management effected during the year by the Acting-Administrator, Mr. Drayton. There were 157 inmates at the end of 1899, and 93 were admitted in 1900, of whom 98 were discharged and 33 died, leaving 119 at the close of the year.

Some much needed repairs to the building are being carried out at the present time, and the Institution is being carefully worked and supervised and is, on the whole, in a fairly creditable state, although falling short, as must necessarily be the case with the small funds at command, of the model conditions obtaining in larger and more flourishing Colonies.

The Low Point old Military Hospital, which had continued open as an overflow Institution for paupers since the hurricane, was closed during the year.

(D.) REFORMATORIES.

Nil.

(E.) SAVINGS BANKS.

The following is a statement of the work of the Bank for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors at 31st December.	Amount of Deposits.	Amount of Withdrawals.	Balance at credit of Depositors 31st December.
1896	1,062	£ 4,451	£ 5,350	£ 8,455
1897	1,047	4,515	4,383	8,771
1898	1,091	4,263	3,739	9,283
1899	1,036	5,375	5,123	9,716
1900	900	7,790	7,122	10,594

Some 248 accounts, in respect of which no transactions had taken place for twelve years, and the balances of which amounted to £119, were written off during the year and the amounts forfeited to Colonial Revenue as required by law.

The figures of Deposits and Withdrawals are swelled by a sum of £2,926, which passed through the Bank under the provisions of the Land Settlement Ordinance, being the value of certain property compulsorily acquired by the Government, which sum is not a true Savings Bank Deposit.

Branches were opened at Georgetown and Chateaubelair, and St. Vincent considerable advantage has been taken by the people of the 1900. facilities thus afforded.

VI. JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The Colonial Police Force consists of a Chief, a Sergeant-Major of European birth and military training, and 52 West Indian non-commissioned officers and privates. They are, in addition to their civil duties, drilled and trained to the use of arms, and are armed with Snider rifles. Besides ordinary police work, they render invaluable assistance to the Government in many details of the administration, being charged with the supervision of the excise duty on rum, and with co-operating in collection of customs duties, district post office work, registration of births, &c., poor relief, and the management of the small district telephone exchanges. In Kingstown they are also responsible for extinguishing fires, receiving from the Town Board additional pay for this service; and, during 1900, an amalgamation was effected by which the Police Department were given the control and management of the Kingstown Prison.

(B.) PRISONS.

Two hundred and sixty-seven persons were committed to prison in the year—170 men, 88 women, and 9 juveniles. The daily average was 31 against 31 in the previous year, and the total cost per prisoner is returned as being £14 1s. 11d. against an average of £18 14s. 6d. in the seven years ending with 1899.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the Police or to the Magistrates in 1900 was 1,268 against 1,475 in 1899.

Of the offences reported in 1900, 291 were for offences against the person; 55 were for prædial larceny; 181 were for offences against property other than prædial larceny; 741 were for other offences.

The total number of convictions in the Inferior Court in 1900 was 795, against 878 in 1899.

These convictions are classed as follows:—135 for offences against the person; 14 for malicious injuries to property; 50 for prædial larceny; 69 for offences against property other than prædial larceny; 230 for offences against Revenue Acts, &c.; 297 for other offences.

ST. VINCENT, The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows:—5 for offences against the person; 10 for offences against property.

The acquittals were as follows:—in the inferior Court, 169; in the Supreme Court, 3.

VII. VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The population at the 1891 Census was 41,054. The population at the end of 1900 is estimated at 45,540, but no account is taken of emigration or immigration, and it is probably correct to make a very liberal discount on the figure of the estimate to cover the considerable immigration, chiefly of the younger and more able-bodied of the population, to more prosperous lands in search of work.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The public health of the Colony was, generally speaking, good throughout the year. There was no serious disease, but the widespread distribution of ulcers and ulcerous sores among the peasantry, arising in a great measure from their own shiftlessness, is a very regrettable feature, as it saps the vitality of the population and is accountable for a great deal of the drain on Government resources for Pauper Relief.

(C.) SANITATION.

The Medical Report on the Town of Kingstown is not as satisfactory as could be desired, but the powers of the Town Board to effect improvements are limited by their income. From the point of view of a newcomer, I may say that the Town appears to me to be very fairly clean and well kept, though I can conceive that with larger expenditure a better outward effect might be produced. Certain recognised defects have been recently receiving attention.

The smaller towns and country villages may leave somewhat to be desired in the way of sanitation, but no glaring evils are to be noticed.

A new Public Health Act has been passed during the current year.

(D.) CLIMATE.

The rainfall for the year was 103·06 inches, recorded at the Botanic Station, just above the Town of Kingstown. The average for the last eleven years is 111·93 inches. The minimum

reading of the thermometer was 67·05 (in February) and the **St. VINCENT**,
maximum 88 (in August and September). 1900.

The direction and force of the wind were normal, the prevailing wind being as usual the North-East Trade.

VIII. POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The Postal Service is performed by a fortnightly service of the steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company from and to Barbados, under contract with His Majesty's Government. There are also lines of steamers from Halifax, Nova Scotia, and from the United States, which call at the Port of Kingstown, though at somewhat irregular intervals.

There is an Inland Postal system by which the Windward and Leeward districts of the Colony are daily, and the Islets of the Grenadines, are weekly, served.

The volume of correspondence appears from the Postmaster's returns to have been somewhat less than in the previous year, and the same applies to parcels. Newspapers, however, show a slight increase.

The Revenue was only £1,263 as against £2,281 in 1899, in which latter year the receipts from the sale of Postage Stamps outside the Colony were largely above the average, consequent on the appearance of a new issue.

The Revenue of the Telephone Department was £445 and the Expenditure £334. The lines re-constructed after the hurricane worked well and the service is a most valuable one.

IX. MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Nil.

X. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Having arrived in the Colony only in May of the present year, I am not in a position to review at any length the general events of 1900. It may be said, however, that the year was one of slow emergence from the disastrous conditions induced by the hurricane of 1898, while there are evidences of able administration under circumstances of difficulty for which the Colony has reason to be grateful.

ST. VINCENT,
1900.

The present outlook is certainly not bright, and in regard to the arrowroot industry especially there is grave cause for anxiety on account of the effect of over-production on price, as already explained, particularly as this industry is practically the only remaining general source of wage-earning employment for the agricultural labourer.

On the other hand, however, the Land Settlement Scheme promises fairly well, and the wider distribution of land among the peasantry should gradually bring about an amelioration of the conditions of poverty and distress that are now only too noticeable.

In time it may be hoped that the cloud of gloom that now overhangs this fair island will be dispelled; but, without a widely distributed, paying industry to give steady employment to the population, it would be too optimistic to say that that time is within measurable distance.

EDWARD J. CAMERON,

Administrator.

4th December. 1901.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 333.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 301.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1901.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
309	St. Helena	1899
310	British Honduras	"
311	St. Lucia... ..	"
312	St. Vincent	"
313	Basutoland	1899-1900
314	Hong Kong	1899
315	Southern Nigeria	1899-1900
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899-1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899-1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados	"
327	Bahamas... ..	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia... ..	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.

No. 333.

SEYCHELLES,
1900.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 301.)

ADMINISTRATOR E. B. SWEET-ESCOTT to
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Seychelles.

July 15th 1901.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to forward my report on the Seychelles
Blue Book for the year 1900.

I have, &c.,

E. B. SWEET-ESCOTT,
Administrator.

SEYCHELLES, 1900. **REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1900.**

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue. 1. The revenue of Seychelles for 1900 amounted to Rs. 399,311 65c., and is the largest ever collected in one year.

Expenditure. 2. The expenditure, exclusive of the cost of works defrayed from loan funds, was Rs. 351,919 71c. But, as this sum includes Rs. 55,000, the balance of the debt of Seychelles to Mauritius, which was repaid in April 1900, the ordinary expenditure of the year was only Rs. 296,919 71c., and the ordinary revenue therefore, exceeded the ordinary expenditure by no less than Rs. 102,391 94c., or Rs. 8,507 94c. more than the surplus of revenue over expenditure in 1899.

Revenue and expenditure from 1896 to 1900 compared 3. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure of Seychelles for the last five years :—

Year.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
			Rs.	Rs.
1896	...	...	243,802	238,177
1897	...	...	296,171	259,056
1898	...	...	316,176	276,385
1899	...	...	362,791	268,907
1900	...	...	399,311	351,919

From the above figures it will be seen that the revenue in 1900 exceeded that collected in 1896, which was the largest, up to that year, ever raised in Seychelles, by Rs. 155,509, and that the total revenue of the last five years exceeded the total expenditure for the same period by Rs. 223,807, or, if the debt of Rs. 55,000 repaid to Mauritius is deducted from the expenditure for last year, by Rs. 278,807, a sum which is greater than the revenue collected in Seychelles in any one year up to and including the year 1896.

4. Up to the year 1871 inclusive, the Seychelles finances were controlled entirely by the Mauritius Government, and its Customs revenue was collected in Mauritius. But the Order in Council of the 22nd April, 1872, which created a Board of Civil Commissioners, with the Chief Civil Commissioner as president, transferred this control, subject to the Governor's instructions, from Mauritius to Seychelles, and the first appropriation law passed in Seychelles under its new constitution, namely Regulation No. 1 of 1872, authorised the expenditure of £10,781 17s. 7d. from the revenues of the Seychelles Islands for the service of the year 1873. The actual revenue for that year was £12,683 16s., and the actual expenditure £10,231 2s., or £550 15s. 7d. less than the estimate.

5. The accounts of Seychelles were kept in rupees and cents for the first time in 1878. In the following comparative statement, which gives the revenue and expenditure of the islands at intervals of five years from 1865 to 1895, the figures for the years prior to 1878 have been converted into rupees, the rupee being rated, as was done in 1878, at two shillings.

Year.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
			Rs.	Rs.
1865	...	...	52,268	49,543
1870	...	...	75,117	72,177
1875	...	...	133,238	126,147
1880	...	...	153,053	149,534
1885	...	...	143,829	126,356
1890	...	...	224,169	219,393
1895	...	...	233,282	225,500

6. The rapid growth in the revenue of Seychelles between the years 1870 and 1875 was partly due to the better system of administration in the islands inaugurated by the Order in Council of 1872, and partly to the fact that, prior to the financial separation of Seychelles from Mauritius, Seychelles does not appear to have been credited with the full value of the Customs dues paid in Mauritius on goods imported into Seychelles.

7. It is noteworthy that in 36 years the revenue of the Seychelles islands should have increased more than sevenfold; that, in each of the years given in the above table, the revenue exceeded the expenditure; and that this surplus of revenue over expenditure has also been maintained in every year from 1896 to 1900.

SEYCHELLES. 8. The following table gives a comparative statement of the revenue for the years 1896 to 1900 :—

Details of revenue from 1896 to 1900.	Heads of Receipts.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
	1. Customs ...	123,828	171,368	177,378	219,608 60	229,121 85
	2. Pilotage and Harbour Dues.	1,760	2,048	1,031	2,883 43	6,408 20
	3. Licenses, &c. ...	33,467	35,482	39,490	43,373 89	43,614 43
	4. Taxes ...	33,088	39,475	37,269	42,570 98	45,328 71
	5. Fees of Court or Office, &c.	19,735	23,189	35,992	25,997 95	33,040 79
	6. Post Office ...	22,710	15,292	10,520	9,865 98	15,043 85
	7. Rents of Government Property.	6,567	5,059	5,666	7,836 00	10,316 06
	8. Interest ...	775	729	688	710 70	2,648 88
	9. Miscellaneous ...	1,872	3,529	8,142	9,943 53	13,788 88
	Total ...	243,802	296,171	316,176	362,791 06	399,311 65

Increases in revenue explained.

9. The receipts under every head of revenue in 1900 show an increase compared with those of 1899.

The increase under "Customs" was due to the imposition of a Wharfage Duty by Ordinance No. 18 of 1899, which was passed on the 22nd July, 1899, but only brought into operation on the 1st January, 1900. This Ordinance was passed with the special object of raising funds to provide a subsidy for a mail service. From the 1st January to the 7th November, 1900, when the Ordinance was repealed by the new Customs Tariff Ordinance, the total receipts from Wharfage Duties amounted to Rs. 28,030 57c. But from this sum should be deducted Rs. 8,988, which had been levied on coal imported, and which were subsequently refunded, leaving Rs. 19,042 57c. as the net proceeds of the duty. It was originally estimated in 1898 that the annual receipts from Wharfage Duties would amount to Rs. 38,300. In framing the new Customs Tariff Ordinance, the principal object was, by a slight readjustment which would not press hardly on the consumer, to add to the Customs Revenue a sum of Rs. 20,000, so that the repeal of the Wharfage Duty Ordinance might not result in any serious loss of revenue. This object, experience shows, has been fairly attained. The greater amount of shipping calling at Seychelles in 1900, nearly double that of 1899, accounts for the increase in "Pilotage and Harbour Dues," whilst greater vigilance exercised in the collection of "Taxes" is the reason why this source of revenue also shows an increase. Receipts for

"Fees of Court or Office, &c." always have a tendency to fluctuate, but, as in 1898, so in 1900, the greater number of documents registered in the Registration and Mortgage Department is the principal cause of the increase in receipts compared with those of the previous year. SEYCHELLES,
1900.

The marked increase shown by the comparative statement given under VIII. "Postal Services" explains the increase in Post Office Revenue, and the investment during the year of surplus revenue, and Savings Bank Funds, which had previously been allowed to lie idle, accounts for the increase in the amount under "Interest."

The greater number of acres of Crown Land now under lease is accountable for the increase in the receipts under "Rents of Government Property, &c.," whilst the larger quantity of guano taken from islands, the property of the Crown, on which a royalty of Rs. 5 a ton is paid, and the sale of Customs seizures and of Customs goods abandoned, are the causes of the increase under the heading "Miscellaneous."

10. The following table gives a comparative statement of the expenditure for the years 1899 and 1900, arranged under the proper headings:—

Head of Service.	1899.		1900.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt . . .	2,680	00	55,525	38
2. Pensions and Gratuities	11,040	65	12,096	40
3. Administrator and Legislature	15,169	23	23,521	67
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department.	14,116	84	16,348	93
5. Audit Department	3,977	51	3,557	42
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	8,946	28	10,023	49
7. Legal Department	27,438	41	25,815	43
8. Police Department	28,633	68	28,991	14
9. Prison Department	10,563	97	10,026	78
10. Medical, Hospital, and Dispensaries Department.	26,293	21	21,852	04
11. Sanitary and Board of Health	7,145	41	8,258	80
12. Ecclesiastical Department	9,750	80	9,902	98
13. Education Department	15,599	34	15,723	36
14. Printing Department...	2,479	97	3,368	..
15. Post Office Department	6,179	72	6,438	02

SEYCHELLES,
1900.*Comparative Statement of Expenditure for the
Years 1899 and 1900—cont.*

Head of Service.						1899.		1900.	
						Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
16. Transport	...	...	...	...	...	4,455	32	25	00
17. Crown Lands Department	...	...	...	...	...	4,935	47	4,153	55
18. Exchange	...	...	...	...	...	4,842	52	4,841	08
19. Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	4,384	16	21,418	94
20. Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies	...	...	...	...	...	20,395	17	25,200	31
21. Copyists	...	...	...	...	...	689	29	—	
22. Public Works Department	...	...	...	...	...	8,157	17	9,212	86
23. Public Works, Recurrent	...	...	...	...	...	11,618	11	18,002	39
24. Public Works, Extraordinary	...	...	...	...	...	16,110	64	17,610	64
25. Special Votes	...	...	...	...	...	3,305	36	—	
Total						268,907	43	351,919	71

Explanation
of increases
in 1900.

11. The explanation as to the large increase under the heading "Charge on account of Public Debt" has been given in paragraph 2. The amount now annually due under this heading is Rs. 14,816 25c., as stated in paragraph 14, in which reference is made to the Public Debt.

The increase under "Administrator and Legislature" is partly due to salary paid to the late Administrator in 1899, treated as an advance at the time, not having been brought to account until last year, and partly to alterations in the Administrator's Staff, whilst the various increases in the "Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department," in the "Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department," and in the "Printing Department" are due to higher rates of salaries being authorised during the year. The vote for "Miscellaneous" was swollen by a refund, as explained in paragraph 9, of Rs. 8,988, being the Wharfage Duty paid on coal imported, prior to coal being added to the list of articles exempted from such duty, and by charges connected with the export of surplus funds for investment, bills being at the time unobtainable.

Extensive repairs, not originally anticipated, in public buildings and public roads were the cause of the expenditure in 1900 under "Public Works, Recurrent" exceeding that of 1899 under the same heading.

12. Changes in taxation were effected by the Local Rate SEYCHELLES, Consolidation and Amendment Ordinance, and the Customs 1900. Consolidated Tariff Ordinance, the principal points of which are given under heading III. "Legislation." Changes in taxation.

The former introduced no new system of taxation, but equalised rates of direct taxation; the latter simplified the Customs tariff, and abolished wharfage duties and all export duties save that of R. 1 a ton on guano.

13. On the 31st December, 1900, the assets of Seychelles exceeded its liabilities by Rs. 258,361 84c., a sum greater than the total revenue of the islands for any year up to and including 1896. Of the assets, Rs. 168,702 36c. have been invested on account of general revenue, and Rs. 70,556 12c. on account of savings bank deposits. In addition to the cash balances in the local Treasury Chests, in the hands of the Crown Agents, and Messrs. Grindlay, Groom & Co., Bombay, amounting altogether to Rs. 91,870 42c., the value of remittances in transit to the Crown Agents was no less than Rs. 56,755. Assets and liabilities.

14. The Public Debt of Seychelles consists only of the loan of Public Debt. £20,000 from the Imperial Treasury, under the Colonial Loans Act, 1899, and Seychelles Ordinance No. 1 of 1900, for the construction of new roads in and for the survey of the Island of Mahé. It is repayable in 30 years from the 26th April, 1900, the date on which the loan was actually made, by means of annual payments of £987 15s. 0d., that is Rs. 14,816 25c., which represent an annuity of principal and interest combined, at the rate of £49 7s. 9d. per annum for every thousand pounds borrowed. The balance of the debt due to Mauritius, namely Rs. 55,000, was repaid in April 1900.

15. With an excess of Rs. 102,391 94c. of revenue over expenditure for 1900, with investments amounting to Rs. 239,258 48c. and with remittances in transit to the Crown Agents on the 31st December, 1900, to the value of Rs. 56,755, it is not unreasonable that the Seychelles government should regard with satisfaction the financial transactions of the past year. Financial results of 1900.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

16. The value of imports in 1900 amounted to Rs. 980,911, 1899 and being less by Rs. 3,755 than the value of imports in 1899, and the 1900 compared. value of exports was Rs. 1,036,161, being less by Rs. 817,201 than their value in 1899.

SEYCHELLES,
1900.Causes of
decrease in
exports.

17. The decrease in the value of exports is almost entirely attributable to the small vanilla crop of 1899–1900, only 17,569 kilos. of vanilla, valued at Rs. 580,877, having been exported last year, as against 41,835 kilos. exported in 1899 and valued at Rs. 1,338,720, the difference in values being Rs. 757,843, or Rs. 59,358 less than the difference in the value of exports for the years 1899 and 1900.

The value of cocoanut oil exported in 1900 was less by Rs. 124,046 than the value of the oil exported in 1899, but other exports, excluding vanilla and cocoanut oil, show an increase of Rs. 64,688 over the exports for 1899, from which vanilla and cocoanut oil are also excluded.

	Value.
	Rs.
Total value of exports in 1899 ...	1,853,362
Total value of vanilla and cocoanut oil exported in 1899.	1,730,775
Value of exports, excluding vanilla and cocoanut oil, in 1899.	122,587
Total value of exports in 1900 ...	1,036,161
Total value of vanilla and cocoanut oil exported in 1900.	848,886
Value of exports, excluding vanilla and cocoanut oil, in 1900.	187,275
Value of exports, excluding vanilla and cocoanut oil, in 1899.	122,587
Balance in favour of exports in 1900, excluding vanilla and cocoanut oil.	64,688

Vanilla must always be a capricious source of revenue, though in a series of good years it will be found to yield a handsome profit.

The cause of the falling off in the quantity of cocoanut oil is more difficult to explain, and as will be seen later on, India took less cocoanut oil from Seychelles in 1900, to the value of Rs. 167,468, than it did in 1899. The value of cocoanut oil exported to other countries shows an increase of Rs. 43,691 in 1900 as compared with 1899.

No doubt a greater quantity of cocoanut oil was employed in the manufacture of soap, the value of the export of which increased last year by Rs. 5,448, whilst the value of soap imported decreased by Rs. 14,854, this decrease probably showing that locally made soap was more generally used in the Seychelles islands, but it is more likely that the falling off is to be attributed partly to shortage of labour, and partly to the growing tendency of planters and persons engaged in agriculture to devote more attention to the culture of vanilla.

18. The following table gives the total values of imports and exports, with and without specie, for the last five years :—

Year.			Imports without specie	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.	Comparative table of im- ports and exports, 1896-1900.
			Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	
1896	...	...	710,359	975,079	1,535,895	1,569,912	
1897	...	...	942,017	1,222,411	1,503,701	1,567,295	
1898	...	...	889,041	1,009,640	1,278,382	1,381,514	
1899	...	...	984,666	1,041,890	1,853,362	1,897,662	
1900	...	...	980,911	1,000,911	1,036,161	1,052,211	

SEYCHELLES,
1900.Comparative
table of
principal
imports,
1899, 1900.

19. The following table gives a comparative statement of the value of the principal articles imported in 1899 and 1900, and the countries of origin :—

	United Kingdom.		France.		India.		Mauritius.		Zanzibar.	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Coal	75,450	126,384	—	—	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —
Coffee	—	—	—	—	15,748	18,384	—	992	—	—
Cotton Goods	69,699	69,590	6,895	3,049	71,379	23,486	—	2,115	200	17
Flour	45	9	232	—	24,645	19,595	—	16	2,397	180
Haberdashery and millinery	26,302	25,159	27,003	29,549	15,582	12,366	1	605	1,023	37
Iron goods	24,847	28,833	2,164	1,955	4,275	3,055	598	2,330	205	60
Lamps, hardware, and cutlery	8,295	8,053	3,342	2,042	2,045	2,442	412	4,771	605	10
Leather boots and shoes	6,418	5,886	3,883	1,301	2,171	2,941	113	359	344	—
Provisions	20,052	7,940	2,422	631	1,105	1,573	718	842	141	—
Rice	—	—	—	—	131,454	179,821	19,480	22,984	—	4
Soap	1,500	437	1,957	2,518	16,261	1,823	—	104	—	—
Spirits of all kinds	11,183	10,714	14,507	19,000	45	20	21,701	15,706	60	—
Sugar	—	—	—	—	1,906	—	40,435	44,182	—	—
Wine of all kinds	52	29	61,716	59,262	—	300	—	1,690	205	—

It will be seen that Seychelles draws its coal supply entirely from the United Kingdom, as well as the greater part of its cotton and iron goods, lamps, hardware and cutlery, leather boots and shoes, and what are termed "provisions"; that more haberdashery and millinery come from France than from the United Kingdom; that France supplies the greatest quantity of spirits of all kinds, Mauritius, which furnishes the rum, the usual drink of the labouring classes, being second, and the United Kingdom third; and that practically all the wine drunk, principally consisting of red wine in casks, comes from France.

The imports from India are principally coffee, cotton goods, flour, haberdashery and millinery, and, above all, rice, whilst the chief contributions from Mauritius are rice, rum, and sugar.

20. The value of imports during the last five years from the countries from which Seychelles principally draws its supplies is given in the following table:—

Country.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	173,486	248,798	136,550	323,406	359,862
France	61,461	104,519	131,496	177,619	152,532
India	209,652	235,144	317,123	334,693	316,112
Mauritius	123,353	127,661	137,802	123,641	153,363

Comparative
table of
imports from
principal
countries,
1896-1900.

SEYCHELLES,
1900.Comparative
table of
principal
exports,
1899-1900.

21. The following comparative table gives the value of the principal exports of Seychelles, showing the chief countries to which they were exported, for the last two years.

	United Kingdom.		France.		India.		Mauritius.		Zanzibar.		Nossi-Bé.		Réunion.	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
Cocoanuts ...	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. 16	Rs. —	Rs. 10,006	Rs. 1,570	Rs. 6,953	Rs. 23,282	Rs. 116	Rs. —	Rs. 840	Rs. 685	Rs. 536	Rs. 1,763
Cocoa ...	3,159	5,477	1,561	—	329	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guano ...	8,300	—	—	—	—	—	9,850	21,895	—	—	—	—	1,250	2,814
Oil (cocoanut) ...	—	6	—	—	257,288	89,820	85,400	117,012	—	1,965	43,892	52,919	800	1,881
Salted fish ...	—	—	—	—	281	—	1,995	2,228	—	150	—	—	—	1,864
Soap ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28,998	33,486	1,332	1,242	—	1,050
Tortoise shell ...	21,664	7,682	5,600	17,101	1,600	100	—	4,850	1,995	—	—	—	—	—
Vanilla ...	873,728	423,243	464,992	155,907	—	—	—	900	—	—	—	—	—	—

In 1900, guano of the value of Rs. 15,400 was exported to Antwerp, and of the value of Rs. 2,050 to Durban. The value of the vanilla exported to seven other countries besides the United Kingdom, France, and Mauritius, was Rs. 1,725.

22. The principal countries to which Seychelles sends its produce are the United Kingdom, France, India, and Mauritius, and the following table shows the comparative value of exports to these countries for the last five years :—

Value of Exports to the United Kingdom, France, India, and Mauritius, from 1896 to 1900.

Total value
of principal
exports,
1896-1900.

Country.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	704,508	637,906	505,505	907,142	437,756
France	213,915	348,330	290,958	472,314	173,124
India	384,989	264,605	234,711	271,997	110,121
Mauritius ...	114,645	152,579	157,094	107,919	177,843

Besides these countries and six other countries to which goods of small amount were sent, Aden took goods to the value of Rs. 8,348, Holland to the value of Rs. 15,418, Mombasa to the value of Rs. 3,705, Natal to the value of Rs. 2,230, Nossi-Bé to the value of Rs. 55,060, Réunion to the value of Rs. 14,020, and Zanzibar to the value of Rs. 37,284. The exports to Holland and Natal consisted almost exclusively of guano, and those to Nossi-Bé of cocoanut oil and soap.

(B.) MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

23. There are five soap manufactories in operation in Seychelles, and the value of soap exported, which was Rs. 56,923 in 1898, and fell to Rs. 30,562 in 1899, rose last year to Rs. 36,010.

24. There are also six mineral water factories and one ice factory, and vessels calling at Seychelles can be supplied with mineral waters and ice at moderate prices.

25. Coprah, and, as stated under the following heading, cocoa-nut oil, are manufactured on a considerable scale, and nearly every cocoanut estate is provided with its own drying sheds and oil mills.

26. Vanilla curing houses, now generally built in masonry, are found on almost every vanilla estate of over 50 acres.

27. The fisheries of Seychelles are as yet in their infant stage, notwithstanding that hundreds of small boats, and many luggers and schooners of 20 tons and under, are employed in connection with them.

28. A bill will probably be passed during the current year, under which the fisheries will be properly protected, and in a short time there should be a great increase in the export of salt fish. Calipee, beche-de-mer, tortoise-shell and pearl shell are

SEYCHELLES, exported, and the pearl shell fisheries still await further exploitation.

1900.

It is unlikely that Seychelles will ever become in the ordinary sense of the term a manufacturing country, but in the preparation of vanilla, coffee, cacao and tobacco, the extraction of cocoanut oil, the manufacture of aloe fibre and lime juice, the making of preserves and pickles, the extension of its fruit industry, and the development of its fisheries, it affords full scope for the active exercise of the abilities and energies of its inhabitants.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

Number and area of Seychelles Islands.

Seychelles Group.

Amirantes Group.

Alphonse Group.

Aldabra Group.

Cosmoledo Group.

29. Before referring to the agricultural industries of the Seychelles islands, and to the possibilities of their extension, a few words respecting the number of these islands and their area may not be out of place. In addition to 36 islands, forming what is called the Seychelles group, and including the principal island Mahé, the capital of which is Victoria, there are several groups of islands which are termed the dependencies of Seychelles, namely, the Amirantes group, composed of 17 named islands; the Alphonse group of three islands, Alphonse, Bijoutier, and St. François; the islands of St. Pierre, Providence, and the South Banks; the Aldabra group, of which the principal islands are Aldabra proper (the original home of the gigantic land tortoise), Picard, Polymnie and Malabar, besides several small islets; the Cosmoledo group, consisting of Menai Island, Wizard Island, two North East Islands, Isle du trou, Göelette, Polyte, West Pagoda Island, and South West Island; and the islands of Assumption and Astove. It will thus be seen that there are no less than 74 islands included in the Seychelles Government. The total estimated area of all these islands is 148½ square miles, of which Mahé is 55½ square miles in size, the Aldabra group, with Cosmoledo, Astove, and Assumption, 51½ square miles, and the Amirantes four square miles.

The twelve largest islands of the Seychelles group, estimated in acres, are :—

Island.	Acres.	Island.	Acres.
Mahé	35,520	Praslin	9,700
Silhouette	4,900	La Digue	2,500
Curieuse	900	Felicité	800
North Island	525	St. Anne... ..	500
Denis Island	340	Cerf Island	290
Frigate Island	275	Bird or Sea Cow Island	160

30. The Aldabra and Cosmoledo groups of islands, including **SEYCHELLES**, Astove and Assumption, the islands of Remire or Eagle, African **1900.** Banks, Des Neufs, L'Etoile, Marie Louise, Boudeuse, and King Ross or King Rose of the Amirantes group, St. Pierre, Curieuse, **Islands belonging to the Crown.** Felicité, Round Island near Praslin, Long Island near Mahé, and a few small islets are the property of the Crown.

With the exception of some 900 acres of land in Mahé and Praslin, of which the greater part is now leased, all the rest of the land included within the Seychelles islands and dependencies is private property. The Aldabra islands, and those of the Amirantes which belong to the Crown, and the islands of St. Pierre, Curieuse and Felicité are leased. Round Island, near Praslin, which is 41 acres in extent, is reserved for leper and pauper establishments, and at Long Island near Mahé is the principal quarantine station. It will thus be seen that the development of the great natural resources of Seychelles depends on the energy and skill of private landowners, and that the Government in establishing under the management of a competent agronomic chemist, a botanic station, where scientific experiments in different plants and soils can be made, and which will be specially valuable as a receiving station and nursery for plants, trees, &c., to be introduced from other colonies and foreign countries, is doing all that is practicable to assist planters and landowners in their work.

31. There are not sufficient available data on which to base an **Products of** accurate estimate of the acreage of land under each crop, but **the Seychelles.** suitability of the soil for almost every tropical product is shewn by the fact that, in addition to cocoanuts and vanilla, which are the main sources of the present prosperity of Seychelles, and are practically cultivated in all districts where the soil admits of their cultivation, coffee, both Liberian and Arabian, cloves, tobacco, sugar cane, cocos-de-mer, cacao, tea, cassava, sweet potatoes, maize, tomatoes and other vegetables, yield excellent crops on well selected lands.

All kinds of tropical fruits are readily produced, for example, mangoes, bananas, pineapples, orange citron, lemons, limes, bitter oranges, the last named admirably adapted for conversion into marmalade, Seychelles plums, custard apples, avoca pears, bread fruit, &c. The manufacture of lime juice might easily become a valuable industry and there is no reason why tobacco should not be cultivated on a large scale.

32. Although in 1900 the amount of vanilla exported was **Vanilla.** 17,569 kilograms, it is possible that the actual crop of last year did not exceed 12,000 kilograms, some of the vanilla of 1899 being included in the shipments of 1900. The vanilla crop for the current year promised at the end of last year to be an exceptionally fine one, and, notwithstanding losses owing to continued rain, the output for 1901 will probably be the largest on record.

SEYCHELLES, 1900. The preparation of vanilla has much improved of late years. Nearly all vanilla is cured in well constructed drying rooms, heated with hot air, instead of being left to dry in the sun. Large preparers of vanilla are now building houses of two stories in which the whole process of preparation, from steaming the green pods to packing the prepared vanilla, is carried out. In 1900 prepared vanilla sold at Rs. 12 to Rs. 20 per lb. In the Blue Book Report for 1899 (pages 24 and 25) hints were given as to vanilla cultivation, and it is unnecessary for me to repeat them now. I venture to refer to these remarks anyone who may think of embarking on vanilla planting in Seychelles, and also to an excellent treatise on the subject by Mr. S. J. Galbraith, who was for some years one of the most experienced and successful planters in Seychelles. This treatise has been published by the Department of Agriculture (Division of Botany) of the United States of America.

Cocoanuts. 33. It is estimated that in 1900 no less than 17,400,000 coconuts were gathered, of which 12,500,000 were approximately made into oil, 1,020,000 were exported, 1,600,000 were used in the manufacture of soap, and 2,280,000 were consumed locally and used for planting.

Cocoanut oil. 34. No European machinery is used in the manufacture of cocoanut oil, and no improvements were made in the methods of extracting oil, which, primitive though they seem, are very effective. The price of oil in 1900 was 96 cents the gallon.

Coffee. 35. Many coffee-husking machines for hand power have been made locally. European machinery is used on the Cascade and Mamelles Estates, and has proved successful in husking and cleaning berries. Probably as good Liberian coffee grows in all parts of Seychelles as in any country in the world. The trees yield abundantly and the berries are exceptionally fine. But the present price is unremunerative to the planter, being only Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 the 100 lbs. It is possible that if a central factory could be established to complete the final process of sorting and preparing for the market the coffee berries, better prices could be obtained, and Seychelles coffee would become favourably known in Europe.

(D.) GRANTS OF LAND.

Small extent of Crown Land in Seychelles. 36. With the exception of the Aldabra and Amirantes groups of islands, the Islands of Curieuse and Félicité, Round Island near Praslin, and Long Island near Mahé, which is used as a quarantine station, the Crown, as pointed out under "Agricultural Industries," possesses only some 900 acres of land situated chiefly in the hills of Mahé and Praslin. Every acre of land in Mahé has, at one time or another, been conceded, and the majority of the concessions date back to a period prior to that of the capture of the Island in 1794. After its occupation by the English these concessions were confirmed. At later dates, for various reasons,

some of the lands reverted to the Crown. There are no "Pas Géométriques" in Seychelles as there are in Mauritius, and the Crown has retained only foreshore rights. SEYCHELLES,
1900.

37. Owing to the difficulty of purchasing land at Baie Ste. Anne, Praslin, where the Government had decided to station the Medical Officer and Justice of the Peace for the district of Praslin, which includes the Islands of Curieuse, La Digue, Felicité, Marianne, Mamelles, Aride, &c., nearly five acres of Crown land at Fond Boffay, which lies at the back of Baie Ste. Anne, were exchanged with the Roman Catholic Mission for a similar amount of land near the village. The Crown now possesses at Baie Ste. Anne a sufficiently large piece of land for all Government buildings required there. The Government is much indebted to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Victoria for his ready co-operation in this matter. Exchange of
land at
Praslin.

38. A grant of Crown land in the centre of La Digue, for which the Government received an annual rent of Rs. 60, was made to the lessee of this land and of Round Island, which is 41 acres in size, so as to induce him to abandon the unexpired portion of his lease of Round Island, and to concede to the Government an acre of land near the sea shore at La Digue, and in the most central part of the village on that Island. The object of this transaction was to enable the Government to remove the Leper Asylum and Pauper Camp to Round Island from Curieuse Island, so that the latter Island, which belongs to the Crown and is the fifth largest in size of the Seychelles group, might be made more productive. As the Crown possessed no land in the populous part of La Digue, it was also desired to acquire a sufficiently large piece of ground for the Government buildings, including a police station, which it is hoped to construct there within a short time. Concession
of Crown
Land at
La Digue

39. The Crown Lands Department was formerly under the charge of a separate officer called "Conservator of Crown Lands," but for several years the duties of Conservator have been entrusted to the Superintendent of Public Works. The Crown Lands Department has now been finally merged in the Public Works Department, and the head, who is styled "Superintendent of Public Works and Surveys," has been given an assistant, who must be a sworn land surveyor. Crown Lands
Department.

The total cost, including all charges, of the Crown Lands Department in 1900 was Rs. 4,193 12c., and the total receipts including royalties (Rs. 7,814) paid on guano extracted from the Amirantes Islands and Cosmoledo, moneys (Rs. 3,628 55c.) received by the sale of cocoanuts, cocos-de-mer, vanilla, tortoise-shell, timber, &c., and rents (Rs. 10,316 06c.) from Crown Lands and Buildings, amounted to Rs. 21,758 61c., or Rs. 17,565 49c. in excess of the cost of the Department. In 1899 the cost of the Department was Rs. 4,951 and the receipts Rs. 14,805, showing a net gain of Rs. 9,854.

SEYCHELLES, There has been a falling off in the produce from Crown lands
 1900. in 1900, due both to the crop of vanilla in 1900 being smaller
 — than that of 1899, and to more Crown lands being leased, but
 rents have increased by Rs. 2,539 06c., and receipts from royalties
 on guano by Rs. 5,314.

(E.) SHIPPING.

Comparative 40. The following four tables show the number, tonnage and
 tables of nationalities of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared
 shipping. during the last two years :—

(1.) *Sailing Vessels Entered.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1899 ...	11	982	4	331	—	—	4	1,254	19	2,567
1900 ...	16	2,136	4	321	1	1,234	4	2,424	25	6,115

(2.) *Sailing Vessels Cleared.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
...	10	896	4	331	—	—	3	992	17	2,219
...	16	2,125	4	321	1	1,234	5	2,686	26	6,336

(3.) Steamers Entered.

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Italian.		Austrian.		Portuguese.		Dutch.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1899 ..	35	61,943	1	2,000	5	15,961	1	1,399	1	2,400	1	2,993	1	7,000	45	93,696
1900 ..	70	138,086	1	3,149	1	1,120	1	400	—	—	1	1,800	1	7,900	75	152,455

(4.) Steamers Cleared.

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Italian.		Austrian.		Portuguese.		Dutch.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1899 ..	35	61,943	1	2,000	5	15,961	1	1,399	1	2,400	1	2,993	1	7,000	45	93,696
1900 ..	70	138,086	1	3,149	1	1,120	1	400	—	—	1	1,800	1	7,900	75	152,455

SEYCHELLES
1900.

- SEYCHELLES, 41. From the above tables (1) and (2), it will be seen that the
1900 total tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared in 1900,
exceeded by 7,665 tons the total tonnage entered and cleared in
1899, and from tables (3) and (4) that the total tonnage of
Increase in steamers entered and cleared in 1900 exceeded by 117,518 tons
shipping the total tonnage entered and cleared in 1899. This increase in
explained. steam shipping is due to the greater number of men-of-war and
steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company
calling at Seychelles, and to several transports having put in at
Port Victoria, on their way to and from South Africa.
42. The following tables give comparative statements of men-
of-war entered at Seychelles during the last five years, and of
the total shipping inwards and outwards for the same period :—

SEYCHELLES,
1900.

Comparative Statement of Men-of-War entered at Seychelles from 1896-1900.

Year.	British.			French.			German.			Portuguese.			Austrian.			Dutch.			Italian.			Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	
1896	7	14,934	72	—	—	—	1	1,642	11	1	729	4	1	1,370	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,675
1897	6	15,870	64	1	650	6	2	3,292	19	1	723	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20,541
1898	5	10,890	48	4	2,223	16	1	1,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,763
1899	5	9,871	30	1	2,000	4	4	14,583	78	1	2,933	2	1	2,440	10	1	7,000	12	1	1,399	4	40,292
1900	10	27,631	79	1	3,149	14	1	1,120	13	1	1,800	12	—	—	—	1	7,900	8	1	400	4	42,000
Totals	33	79,196	293	7	8,022	40	9	22,293	121	4	6,251	22	2	3,810	19	2	14,900	20	2	1,799	8	136,271

SAATCHI, 1900.

Comparative Statement of Total Shipping Inwards and Outwards from 1896-1900.

Year.	—	British.		French.		German.		Italian.		Austrian.		Portuguese.		Norwegian.		Dutch.		Totals.	
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1896	Inwards	60	65,253	7	28,291	1	1,642	—	—	1	1,370	1	729	1	329	1	803	72	98,417
	Outwards	60	65,253	7	28,291	1	1,642	—	—	1	1,370	1	729	1	329	—	—	72	97,614
1897	Inwards	56	65,141	1	650	2	3,292	—	—	—	—	1	729	1	1,404	—	—	61	71,216
	Outwards	52	61,149	1	650	2	3,292	—	—	—	—	1	729	—	—	1	803	56	65,219
1898	Inwards	49	60,530	8	3,203	1	1,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58	65,283
	Outwards	54	64,766	8	3,203	1	1,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,404	—	—	64	71,023
1899	Inwards	46	62,925	5	2,331	5	15,961	1	1,399	1	2,400	1	2,993	4	1,254	1	7,000	64	96,263
	Outwards	45	62,839	5	2,331	5	15,961	1	1,399	1	2,400	1	2,993	3	992	1	7,000	62	95,915
1900	Inwards	86	140,222	5	3,470	2	2,354	1	400	—	—	1	1,800	4	2,424	1	7,900	100	158,570
	Outwards	86	140,211	5	3,470	2	2,354	1	400	—	—	1	1,800	5	2,686	1	7,900	101	158,821

43. The harbour of Victoria is under the charge of a port officer, who is provided with an assistant, the latter being also the government pilot. There are eight permanent boatmen, and on mail days, and at other times of pressure extra men are engaged. In addition to the cutter "Wave" of 7½ tons, which is engaged on going to the islands within a radius of 55 miles, the port department has six whaleboats belonging to it, including two galleys used by the Administrator. The "Wave" and whaleboats were in constant use in 1900. The "Wave" made 40 voyages to the outlying islands, sailed 4,148 miles, was absent from Mahé 134 days, conveyed 341 passengers, and carried some 190 tons of cargo. The whaleboats were requisitioned for service on 435 occasions, and travelled in all 2,647 miles.

SEYCHELLES,
1900
Port Department.

44. The Government has no vessel large enough for a voyage to the Aldabra group of islands, which are between 600 and 700 miles distant from Mahé, or even to the Amirantes some 150 miles away, both of which groups are dependencies of Seychelles, and voyages to those islands which are not more than 25 or 30 miles away, like Praslin, La Digue, and Silhouette, are at present attended by some danger, and, during the light north westerly winds, by great delay; a distance of 25 miles sometimes taking two and even three days. For the proper administration of the islands, and to enable them to be constantly visited and inspected, a good sea-going steam launch, which would also serve for harbour work is essential, and a fast sailing cutter of some 60 or 70 tons, capable of going in safety and in a reasonable time to the Aldabra and Amirantes groups, and to the other outlying islands of the Archipelago.

Sailing Yacht
and steam
launch
required!

45. There are two lighthouses in Seychelles, one in the harbour at Victoria, and the other at Denis island 55 miles north of Mahé. Both are constantly visited and are kept in good order.

Lighthouses.

The harbour is well marked by beacons and buoys, and vessels have no difficulty in entering at any time. A good supply of fresh water is brought to the end of the short or Hodoul pier; 752 tons of water were taken by ships during last year.

Beacons.
buoys, &c.

III.—LEGISLATION.

46. During the year 1900, 22 meetings of the Legislative Council were held, and 32 Ordinances passed. Of this number 15 Ordinances were of a general and financial nature, and concerned the interests of all classes; nine related exclusively to the Civil Service and the administration of the Government; three were passed by the instructions of the Secretary of State,

Classification
of
Ordinances.

SEYCHELLES, and included the West Africa Political Prisoners Ordinance, 1900. which gave the Administrator the necessary powers for detaining within the Seychelles islands, ex-kings Prempeh and Asibi of Ashanti and their chiefs and followers; two effected slight amendments in Ordinances passed in 1899, and three were of a purely judicial nature, repealing certain provisions of the penal code, (Ordinance No. 6 of 1838), and amending the law of divorce.

Of the 15 Ordinances of a general character the following are the most important:—

The Post Office Amendment Ordinance, which authorised the establishment of an internal postal service in Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue, and when practicable, the other outlying islands of the archipelago, and gave the Administrator in executive council the power to frame regulations for the creation of branch post offices, and for other purposes connected with the effective working of a local post.

The Local Rate Consolidation and Amendment Ordinance, which substituted one law for 14 previous enactments, equalised the rates of direct internal taxation, so far as all classes are concerned, and substituted for a cumbrous and ineffective system of rating incomes and properties one that is effective and simple.

The system of taxation by means of a local rate really dates back to 1863, when, by Mauritius Ordinance No. 43 of that year, a labour or commutation tax was imposed on persons living in the Seychelles islands. The object of this tax is given in the preamble to the Ordinance which is worth quoting:—"WHEREAS the Island of Mahé, in the Seychelles group, contains many valuable resources, which if properly developed, would raise that dependency from the condition of prostration in which it has been for some time past, to a state of comparative prosperity; AND WHEREAS it is essential to the development of such resources that communications should be opened up between the interior of the said Island, and Port Victoria, by means of Public Roads and bridges constructed and kept in repair on an organized system as hereinafter provided." By this Ordinance so many days' labour were required to be given in proportion to income, but the labour might be commuted at the rate of eight pence sterling for each day's labour. This Ordinance remained in force for 10 years, and at the end of this period it was repealed by Seychelles Regulation No 3 of 1873, which imposed a "Local Rate," labour not being allowed in lieu of payment. This Regulation was itself repealed by Regulation No. 7 of 1874, which was in turn repealed by Regulation No. 4 of 1875, and this last Regulation, with certain amendments introduced by subsequent legislation, remained in force until repealed by Ordinance No. 16 of 1900. Under Regulation No. 4 of 1875, there were nine classes under which persons were liable to be taxed, and these classes were so arranged that the smaller the income the larger the proportion of local rate for which a person became liable. For example, a person in receipt of an income of not less than £100 (Rs. 1,000) paid

£1 (Rs. 10), that is 1 per cent. A person whose income was under £100 (Rs. 1,000) and not less than £50 (Rs. 500) paid £1 (Rs. 10) for the £50, that is at the rate of 2 per cent., and 2*d.* additional for every £1 over £50, whilst a labourer, whose income might be only £12 (Rs. 120) a year, paid 8*s.* (Rs. 4), that is 3 per cent. Under the Ordinance of 1900 the classes under which persons have to pay local rate have been reduced from nine to the four following :—

Class.	Description.	Rate.
Class 1 ...	Every owner of immoveable property within the limits of the central district <i>i.e.</i> , town of Victoria.	Rate not to exceed 6 per cent. on the annual locative value.
Class 2 ...	Every owner of immoveable property within the limits of any of the other districts.	Rate not to exceed 4 per cent. on the annual locative value.
Class 3 ...	Every person deriving from whatever source or sources, an annual income of not less than 240 rupees.	Rate not to exceed 2 per cent. on such income.
Class 4 ...	Every male between the age of 15 and 55 (school boys excepted) not included in any of the previous classes.	Rate not to exceed Rs. 4.

The rates are to be fixed annually by the Administrator, with the advice and consent of the Legislature, and for the year ended the 31st March, 1901, they have been fixed as follows :—

Class 1 ...	4 per cent.
Class 2 ...	3 "
Class 3 ...	1½ "
Class 4 ...	Rs. 3.

The rates under classes 1 and 2 hold good for three years, that is up to the 31st March, 1903.

The Quarantine Amendment Ordinance. This Ordinance remedied defects in the principal Consolidating Quarantine Ordinance No. 27 of 1899, establishing a Quarantine Committee of five members entirely distinct from the Board of Health, and reduced from twelve to ten days the period of quarantine for plague, and from seven to five days the period of quarantine for cholera. Suitable Quarantine Regulations have been framed under this Ordinance, and the restrictions, which for many years hampered the movements of ships calling at Seychelles, have been removed.

The Customs Consolidated Tariff Ordinance effected a readjustment of the duties chargeable on imports; substituted

SEYCHELLES, 23 classes of goods on which specific duties are paid for 45 classes under Regulation No. 6 of 1888; repealed two Ordinances of 1893, imposing an increase of 30 per cent. on duties on all goods except certain foodstuffs; abolished all export duties save that of R. 1 a ton on guano; repealed the Wharfage Duties Ordinance of 1899, which had proved to be both irksome and unremunerative, and imposed an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent. on all goods not included in the list of specifically rated articles. Seeing that for Customs purposes the rupee is still reckoned at 2s. instead of at its true value of 1s. 4d., the *ad valorem* duty in the case of all goods coming from countries where a gold standard of currency prevails is, in fact, only 10 per cent.

The Education Ordinance is discussed in the following paragraph, and the only other Ordinance to which special reference need be made is "The Board of Health Ordinance." This Ordinance, which replaces two Regulations of the Board of Civil Commissioners, three Ordinances of the Legislative Council, and one Proclamation, is a measure of great importance. Under it the Administrator in Executive Council becomes the Central Board of Health, and the Administrator is authorised to create Local Boards of Health, with well defined powers, in the various districts of the Seychelles Islands. The duties of Local Boards of Health are those usually entrusted to similar bodies in other Colonies, with the addition of some of the duties and powers which are generally assigned to District Boards and semi-municipal bodies. The Local Boards have no power to levy taxes, but, as in the case of the first Local Board of Health constituted under the Ordinance, namely the Local Board of Health for the town of Victoria, certain sources of revenue are placed at their disposal by order of the Administrator in Executive Council, so that they are enabled to undertake services and become an Executive body instead of merely an advisory body as was the Board of Health which existed by virtue of previous legislation.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Education
Ordinance,
1900.

47. The new Education Ordinance, passed in November, 1900, will exercise an important influence on the course of education throughout the Seychelles Islands. Under this Ordinance the Administrator in Executive Council has taken the place of the Legislative Council as the Board of Education, and is vested with the power of deciding on all educational matters, whilst an Education Committee, composed of three ex-officio members, of

four members chosen by the Administrator, two of whom may be the Roman Catholic Bishop of Victoria and the Church of England Civil Chaplain, of two members nominated by the Bishop, and of one nominated by the Civil Chaplain, is empowered to advise on all questions connected with the education of youth. The Government Undenominational School has become the Victoria School and has been divided into two branches up to and including the 4th Standard; (1) the paying branch and (2) the non-paying branch, but the course of instruction in both branches is the same with the exception that there are only two classes in the former and four in the latter branch. From the 5th Standard upwards fees must be paid by all pupils.

SEYCHELLES,
1900.

Provision is made in the new rules, which have been framed to regulate the course of instruction in the Victoria School, for the award of two exhibitions every year to the best pupils in the 4th Standard, entitling the holders to free tuition and free books in the higher Standards, so that boys who have shown promise in the 4th Standard need not be prevented, by inability to pay school fees, from continuing their school career. But perhaps the most noteworthy feature of the new Ordinance is the provision for an annual examination, open to all boys in Seychelles who satisfy the conditions laid down in the Regulations, according to the result of which the two best boys will be awarded scholarships of the value of Rs. 600 a year each, tenable for three years, and will be able to pursue their studies at the Royal College in Mauritius or in some school in England to be approved of by the Administrator. The first examination for these scholarships will be held in July, 1902.

Exhibitions.
Annual
scholarships.

48. English has now been made the most important subject in the Victoria School curriculum, and the example of the Royal College, Mauritius, has been followed in making it the medium of instruction in all classes. Adequate provision has been made for improving primary education in grant-aided schools, and a new Code is under consideration.

English the
medium of
instruction

49. The number of grant-aided denominational primary schools in 1900 was 25, 19 being under the management of the Roman Catholic Mission and six under that of the Church of England. In addition, there were two other Roman Catholic schools which, for want of certificated teachers, could not be recognised by the Board of Education as grant-aided schools.

Grant-aided
schools—
Number and
distribution.
Other
schools.

Besides the grant-aided schools, there were (1) the St. Louis college (paying section), with 115 pupils on the roll and 102 in average attendance, and, as mentioned above, the Victoria school with 113 pupils on the roll and 79 in average attendance.

As usual, excellent work was done during the year by the St. Louis Roman Catholic college under the Frères Maristes, and satisfactory results obtained at the last examination, 122 boys having passed out of 160 presented for examination.

Results of
school year.
St. Louis
College.

- SEYCHELLES,** The results at the Convent school for girls were not quite so satisfactory as they were in 1899, 112 girls only having passed out of 176 presented for examination, but the standard required by the examiner was higher in the case of all schools than in 1899.
1900. At the Victoria school the results were also fairly good, 53 pupils successfully passing in their respective standards out of 76 examined.
- Convent School, Victoria. A fair percentage of passes was secured by St. Paul's (Church of England) mixed school in Victoria, 39 children satisfying the examiners out of 59 presented for examination.
- Victoria School. Of the schools outside Victoria, the best results were obtained at the annual examination by the Roman Catholic schools at Anse aux Pins (girls), Anse Boileau (girls), and Baie Lazare (boys), and by St. Matthew's (Church of England) mixed school at Praslin.
- St. Paul's Church of England School, Victoria. At the St. Louis Roman Catholic college and at the Victoria school, secondary education is given in the higher classes, which are affiliated to the Royal college, Mauritius.
- Country schools specially mentioned. 50. The grant-in-aid to schools, which was increased from Rs.6,000 to Rs.8,000 in 1890, and from Rs.8,000 to Rs.10,000 in 1898, has been raised for the current year to Rs.12,000.
- Grant-in-Aid. 51. In the following table is given a comparative statement for the last five years, shewing the number of Roman Catholic and Church of England schools, the number of pupils on the roll and in average attendance, and the amount of grants earned. Similar information under the three first headings is given respecting the Victoria school :—
- Comparative statement of schools, 1896-1900

SEYCHELLES,
1900.

	Roman Catholic.					Church of England.					Victoria School.				
	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
No of schools	19	20	21	21	21	7	7	6	6	6	1	1	1	1	1
No. of pupils on roll ...	1,680	1,824	1,967	2,129	2,247	458	428	376	374	348	76	80	84	106	113
No. of pupils in average attendance	1,259	1,345	1,488	1,619	1,717	291	303	241	259	241	58	58	62	76	79
Grant earned	Rs. 6,470	Rs. 6,343	Rs. 8,371	Rs. 8,450	Rs. 8,451	Rs. 1,529	Rs. 1,656	Rs. 1,628	Rs. 1,549	Rs. 1,548	NOTE.—The cost of this school is provided for in the annual estimates. The staff now consists of a head master, two assistant masters, and four pupil teachers.				

SEYCHELLES,
1900.

Progress of
education
from 1874 to
1900.

52. The following table is interesting as showing the gradual increase in the number of children receiving instruction throughout the Seychelles islands, from the year when grants-in-aid were first given under the provisions of Regulation No. 2 of 1873, now superseded by Ordinance No. 30 of 1900. From the total number of schools, the St. Louis college, the Victoria school, the Convent school, and those other schools which hitherto have not been eligible for grants, are excluded, but in the number of pupils are included the children receiving instruction in those schools, as well as the children on the roll of the grant-aided schools.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.
1874	4	421
1875	7	599
1876	6	442
1877	8	588
1878	9	967
1879	12	961
1880	12	855
1881	12	903
1882	14	1,178
1883	17	1,415
1884	20	1,620
1885	21	1,742
1886	21	1,775
1887	22	1,801
1888	24	1,729
1889	25	1,733
1890	24	1,844
1891	27	1,905
1892	27	1,942
1893	27	2,056
1894	28	2,176
1895	25	2,178
1896	24	2,214
1897	25	2,332
1898	25	2,427
1899	25	2,609
1900	25	2,708

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

SEYCHELLES,
1900.

53. The Victoria Hospital continues to be a useful and creditable institution. It is remarkable for its excellent site, well ordered buildings, scrupulous cleanliness, and the economy with which it is managed. To the three Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny, in whose hands are placed the interior organisation and general management, under the supervision and medical advice of the Chief Medical Officer, the satisfactory condition of the hospital is mainly due. Special reference should be made of the services of Sister St. Landri, the Sister in charge, who has now completed her twenty-fifth year at the hospital, and whose good work was conspicuous during the small-pox epidemic of 1884.

54. The following table shews the result of the treatment of in-patients at the hospital from 1896 to 1900 :—

Hospital
statistics,
1896–1900.

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Un relieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1896 ...	88	55	19	11	10	183
1897 ...	98	37	22	14	10	183
1898 ...	126	40	32	13	19	230
1899 ...	190	54	12	8	9	273
1900 ...	112	58	23	12	14	219

The increase in the number of patients in 1898 and 1899 was mainly due to the importation of coolies from India for employment on road work, who, when sick, were treated in the hospital.

55. The principal diseases for which persons were admitted to the hospital in 1900 were syphilis, rheumatism, dysentery, and bronchitis, whilst 27 patients were treated for injuries.

Principal
diseases.

56. The absence of malarial fever, which is the scourge of most tropical countries, is remarkable, and the only cases coming under the notice and treatment of the Medical Department were imported.

Absence of
malarial
fever.

57. The extern department at the Victoria Hospital is open three mornings during the week, and was made use of last year by 1,848 persons, of whom 1,398 were females, and 450 males. In 1899 the total number of out-patients was 2,172; in 1898, 1,319; in 1897, 2,099; and in 1896, 2,368.

Public
dispensary.

SEYCHELLES, 58. Seychelles has no asylum for lunatic patients, and no
 1900. reformatory. At present the need of a reformatory has not been
 felt, but the want of a small asylum is much felt. Lunatic
 patients from Seychelles are now sent to the Mauritius asylum.
Want of a The difference in the climate between Seychelles and Mauritius,
lunatic the prevalence of malarial fever in the latter Colony, the
asylum. isolation from relatives and friends, tend to lessen the chances of
 recovery of Seychelles lunatic patients who are sent to Mauritius.
 The number under treatment at the Mauritius Asylum on the
 31st December last was 12.

Leper 59. For a considerable number of years the Island of Curieuse,
asylum and situated about one mile to the north of Praslin, and of an area
pauper camp. of 900 acres, has been exclusively reserved for the leper asylum
 and pauper camp, no attempt being made to cultivate the island,
 which is the fifth in size of the Seychelles group, and possesses
 great capabilities, save in planting it with cocoa-nuts and coco-
 de-mer trees. The lepers and paupers were removed at the
 end of 1900 to Round Island, which is about two miles from
 Baie Ste. Anne on the east of Praslin, the headquarters of the
 Justice of the Peace and Assistant Medical Officer of the Praslin
 District.

At the end of December last the lepers under treatment at
 Round Island were four males and one female, and in the pauper
 camp there were eight males and two females.

The number of paupers was greater by three than it was at
 the end of 1899, and the number of lepers had decreased
 by one.

The lepers and paupers are visited every week by the
 Assistant Medical Officer stationed at Praslin, and oftener when
 necessary.

Praslin and 60. There was a considerable falling off in the number of
La Digue persons who were treated at the public dispensaries at Praslin
public and La Digue during 1900, only 203 persons receiving medical
dispensaries. advice and drugs as compared with 392 persons who attended the
 dispensaries in 1899.

Savings 61. The Government Savings Bank was first opened on the
Bank. 5th March, 1894, and at the end of that year the total amount
 deposited was Rs. 16,914. Interest at the rate of 2 per cent.
 per annum is paid on deposits. Up to the end of 1899 no
 portion of the deposits had been invested, and the interest
 paid by the Government represented so much loss to the public
 revenue.

The deposits on the 31st December, 1899, amounted to
 Rs. 70,605.18, and of this sum Rs. 70,556.12 were invested during
 the early part of 1900 in Victoria and South Australia Stocks,
 yielding interest at the rate of 3 per cent. The annual interest
 is, therefore, Rs. 2,116.68.

62. The following table shows the progress of the Savings Bank ^{SEYCHELLES} during the last five years :—
1900.

Year.	Number of Accounts open on 31st December.	Amounts of Deposits on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the Year.	Savings Bank statistics, 1896 to 1900
		Rs.			
1896 ...	125	33,513.56	26	4	
1897 ...	167	63,624.53	46	4	
1898 ...	191	44,417.27	40	16	
1899 ...	214	70,605.18	47	24	
1900 ...	221	61,492.04	35	28	

The decrease in the amount on deposit at the end of last year, as compared with the amount on deposit at the end of 1899, is probably due to money being required by small capitalists for investment in the purchase of land, and in certain cases to meet current expenses owing to the short crop of vanilla in 1900.

63. Arrangements were completed in 1900 for establishing at Branch Praslin a branch Savings Bank, which is now in operation. Other Savings branches will probably be opened during the year on the Island Bank, of La Digue and at Anse Royale on the south-east of Mahé, Praslin, where an Assistant Medical Officer, who will also be Justice of the Peace, will be stationed.

64. The want of a bank in Seychelles is still much felt, and endeavours made during 1900 to induce certain banks to open a branch in Mahé have not been successful. The failure of the New Oriental Bank in 1892 is probably still fresh in the memory of banks and companies. A small branch bank or agency conducted on modest lines would, there is little doubt, prove a success, and would prove a great benefit to the people, and especially to the small planters of vanilla, who now have to pay as much as from 9 to 15 per cent. per annum for advances, and are further hampered by the condition that they will sell their vanilla to the merchant advancing the money at the current price, a somewhat harsh condition, as the current price is, as a rule, fixed by the merchants themselves. Want of a Bank in Seychelles.

SEYCHELLES,
1900

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police Force.

65. The authorised strength of the Police Force in 1900, including an inspector and sergeant-major, was 60 of all ranks, or six more than in 1899. The cost of the force was Rs. 29,350. The work done was, on the whole, satisfactory, and out of 1,014 persons charged by the police 902 were convicted. The Crown Prosecutor prosecutes all "crimes" and "heavy" misdemeanours, less important cases being left to the Inspector of Police and the Sergeant-Major. The sergeants and, from time to time, constables are entrusted with the prosecution of minor and Police Court cases such as disturbances, drunkenness, &c. The Judge of Seychelles reports that no cases of vexatious prosecution by the police came under his notice last year.

Judicial
statistics,
1896 to 1900.

66. The following table gives a summary of the criminal and civil cases tried during the last five years and their results. The figures for 1900 include cases heard by the Justice of the Peace, Praslin district :—

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Cases adjudicated.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.	No. of Stipendiary Court Cases.	in Chambers.
1896 ...	602	565	793	595	209	56	95
1897 ...	565	556	735	592	135	50	118
1898 ...	557	532	758	628	133	64	154
1899 ...	577	563	764	671	133	61	94
1900 ...	870	860	1,096	931	183	85	80

Drunkenness
the principal
cause of
crime.

Of 592 cases prosecuted by the police, 514 were for disturbances, drunkenness, breaches of "bacca" law, and assaults, and the Judge of Seychelles in his report on the criminal statistics for last year again reports that drink was the incentive in most of the cases of disturbance and assault. The passion for drink seems to be deeply rooted in the labouring classes in Seychelles, and I regret that I must confirm my statement in last year's report that drunkenness is the curse of these Islands. It is in the spread of education, bringing with it the consciousness of the debasing and demoralising effects of

drunkenness, and in the example which should be set by those SEYCHELLES, who constitute the upper classes, that the true remedy must be sought. 1900

67. The prison is situated in the town of Victoria and adjoins the grounds of Government House and the Central Police Station. The prisoners sleep in two large dormitories and no separation of classes of prisoners is, under existing circumstances, practicable either by day or night. The removal of the police station to another site, the enlargement of the prison grounds, and the construction of a new prison building on the separate cell system, with proper outbuildings and workshops, have been approved in principle and plans are now under consideration.

The head of the Prison Department is the Inspector of Police, who is also styled Superintendent of Prisons. At the end of 1900 the regular prison staff consisted of a resident gaoler and seven guards, the services of one guard and three overseers of prison gangs having been dispensed with during the year. The number of guards has since been reduced to six. This reduction in the prison establishment was rendered possible by restricting the employment of prisoners on miscellaneous services, by a better arrangement of the hours of duty of the guards, and by the treatment of sick prisoners, who are not seriously ill, in a small building within the prison, instead of, as formerly, at the Victoria Hospital.

68. There has been a marked improvement in prison discipline and in the conduct of prisoners since March, 1900, when the Mark System Regulations were for the first time introduced. To this improvement the Acting Superintendent bears testimony in his annual report. Work by prisoners has also been better and more cheaply done. In addition to the ordinary round of prison labour and carpentry work, prisoners are now taught the trades of tinsmith and shoemaker, and a small printing press has been set up in the prison, by means of which the forms required in Government departments are printed off. Book binding will shortly be added to the other prison industries.

69. The total cost of the Prison Department in 1900 was Rs. 9,942 51c. and the prisoners' earnings were Rs. 770 96c. This sum represents only the actual amount of money paid by private persons for work specially authorised to be done in the prison, and no account is taken of the value of labour performed by prisoners in keeping in order the grounds of Government House, in work done for the Public Works Department, and in scavenging the streets of Victoria. The estimated value of these services more than counterbalances the cost of the upkeep of the prison.

SEYCHELLES, 1900. 70. 315 persons were committed to prison in 1900, of whom 257 were males and 58 females. The daily average number of males and females was 50 and 2 respectively. Female prisoners are kept in a separate building under the charge of a matron.

Prison statistics. 71. The following table gives a comparative statement for the last five years of the number of persons committed to prison and the daily average of prisoners in prison :—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in Prison.
1896... ..	329	73
1897... ..	301	70
1898... ..	279	56
1899... ..	321	50
1900... ..	315	52

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Census, 1881. 72. The population of Seychelles was fixed by the census of 1881 at 14,191; the death-rate in that year being 17·96 per 1,000, and the birth-rate 35·37.

1891. 73. According to the census of 1891, the population had increased to 16,440; the death-rate in the same year being 18·37 per 1,000, and the birth-rate 37·53.

Estimated population, 1900 74. The Chief Officer of the Civil Status estimates the total population of Seychelles and its dependencies to have been

20,275 on the 31st December, 1900, or an increase in nearly ten SEYCHELLES, year of 3,835 against an increase of 2,249 in the previous 1900. decade.

The census for the present year took place on the 30th May, and it will be interesting to see how far the actual results of the census agree with the present estimate of the population.

75. The population of Seychelles has almost trebled during the last 50 years, as will be seen from the following comparative statement :—

Year.			Total Population.	Increase during Ten Years.
1851	...	...	6,841	—
1861	...	...	7,560	719
1871	...	...	11,179	3,619
1881	...	...	14,191	3,012
1891	...	...	16,440	2,249
1900	...	...	20,275	3,768

According to the above figures the greatest increase has taken place during the last period, which was only short of ten years by three months and five days, the census for 1891 having been held on the 5th April of that year.

76. The birth-rate in 1900 was 30·45 per 1,000, and the death-rate 17·05 ; the latter rate being 1·15 less than that of London, and death-rate. 1·7 less than that of Brighton, 1·11 less than that of Edinburgh, and 12·15 less than that of Dublin.

The total number of arrivals in 1900 was 900, and of departures 593, leaving a net gain to the population of 307.

The total number of deaths was 335, and of births 598.

Of the deaths, 120 were of children under five years of age, 173 of persons over five years and under 70, and 42 of persons over 70.

The high rate of infant mortality is attributable more to the ignorance of parents than to any other cause, but also, in the country districts, to the difficulty of obtaining medical advice.

SEYCHELLES. 77. The following table gives the estimated population of the
1900. Seychelles Islands, and the birth and death-rates for the last five
— years :—

Vital
statistics,
1896-1900.

Year.	Total Population on 31st December.	Birth Rate per 1,000.	Death Rate per 1,000.
1896... ..	18,301	33·6	16·0
1897... ..	18,639	33·76	18·68
1898... ..	19,535	31·97	19·36
1899... ..	19,638	32·5	14·07
1900... ..	20,275	30·45	17·05

The birth and death-rates from 1896 to 1899 differ slightly from those given in the Report for 1899, the figures in that report being those furnished by the Medical Department. I have thought it better now to adopt the system of calculating the rates employed by the Chief Officer of the Civil Status.

Healthiness
of
Seychelles.

78. The general healthiness of the Seychelles Islands is proved by its low death-rate, and the records of past years show that the driest months of the year, that is May to September, during which the prevailing wind is the south-east trade, are usually the months when the death-rate is lowest.

The Chief Medical Officer confirms the remarks which he made in his Report for 1899 that deaths from dysentery, especially among young children, are most common either when the streams are low and the infusion of vegetable matter in the streams is very concentrated, or after rain, when the river-beds are stirred up, and this vegetable refuse is being washed down to the sea.

Further experience has only confirmed the Chief Medical Officer in his view that malarial fever does not exist in Seychelles. The only cases which have come under his notice have been imported, and some of these persons who landed at Seychelles seriously ill from malarial fever rapidly improved, and had no return of it so long as they remained in the islands. It is a remarkable fact that the anopheles mosquito, which is stated to be the great agent in propagating malaria, is not to be found in Seychelles.

If regular monthly inter-communication by steamers with East Africa and Mauritius is maintained, and a comfortable hotel or a number of small bungalows were built on the high ground which overlooks Victoria, there is no reason why Seychelles,

owing to the exceptional healthiness of its climate, should not become the sanatorium of Mauritius and East Africa. The climate does not appear to be altogether suited to persons suffering from consumption, as stated by my predecessor in his Blue Book Report for 1894, and the Chief Medical Officer is of opinion that the extreme dampness of the climate might even prove prejudicial to them.

The equability of the temperature would, however, be welcome to persons with weak chests and delicate throats.

79. The constitution of the local Board of Health for the town of Victoria, to which reference is made under heading III. Legislature, paragraph 46, and the allocation to this board of an annual sum of over Rs.20,000 will, it is hoped, be instrumental in effecting several much needed improvements in the town. The latrine and scavenging services are now carried out by a contract, instead of as hitherto, by prison labour; steps are being taken to improve the drainage and water supply, and the condition of the streets is receiving due attention. The question of overcrowding will have to be taken in hand. The town is already extending rapidly both north and south along the sea, but some day it may become necessary to reclaim land from the sea to provide sufficient accommodation for the business part of the town.

Creation of
Local Board
of Health,
Victoria.

80. The results of vaccination during the past year have not been satisfactory. The explanation must be sought in the unsuitability of the lymph now supplied, and in the length of time which its passage from England to Seychelles takes, rather than in any want of activity on the part of the Medical Department. Two cases of lymph, packed by the Society of Apothecaries on the 28th November and 12th December, 1900, only reached Seychelles on the 13th February and, owing to their detention at Colombo, awaiting the Seychelles steamer, arrived in bad condition. The Chief Medical Officer, reporting on the vaccination results of the year, states that out of 396 cases, 196 were successful the first time, 63 the second time, and 35 the third time, whilst 102 were unsuccessful. He adds that, in his opinion the protection against small-pox afforded by vaccination with the lymph now supplied is very poor. As small-pox is probably the one disease to be feared in Seychelles, it is to be hoped that either a less sensitive lymph may be available, which will not be injured by delays in transit, or that a new mail service will enable lymph to be forwarded without transshipment, in which case it could be stored in the steamer's cold room until arrival at Victoria.

Vaccination.

81. A great improvement has been effected in the quarantine restrictions in Seychelles by the passing of Ordinance No. 20 of 1900, to which reference is made in paragraph 46, and by the reduction of the period of quarantine for plague and cholera to 10 and five days respectively. The period of quarantine for small-pox, yellow fever, and typhus is 15, 10, and 10 days respectively. Workable quarantine regulations have been drawn

Quarantine.

SEYCHELLES, up under the Quarantine Ordinances of 1899 and 1900, and the 1900. unfortunate notoriety which Seychelles had acquired by the unnecessarily stringent nature of its quarantine laws is now a thing of the past. Every care however, is taken to ensure the disinfection of cargo and especially passengers' clothes. A steam disinfecter by Messrs. Reck and Co., of Copenhagen, which has been erected on the quarantine station at Long Island has, so the Chief Medical Officer reports, proved most efficient. Dr. Denman states that it is easy to work and does no harm to the clothes; that articles passed through the disinfecter dry rapidly, and that, after a few minutes exposure to the sun, they are ready for re-packing.

Climate. 82. The climate of Seychelles varies little throughout the year, all the islands being situated between the parallels of 4° and 5° S. latitude. The mean temperature for 1898 was 79·40, for 1899 78·84, and for 1900 79·58. The coolest, driest, and healthiest months of the year are from June to October. The heat of the period from November to May is tempered by rain. What may be called the official meteorological observations are taken at the Port Office, Victoria, at a height of 20 feet above sea level. On the hills where some of the planters live, and where there are several private houses, the rainfall is greater than in Victoria, and the thermometer, especially at night, registers several degrees lower.

Meteoro-logical observations, 1896-1900. 83. The following table gives the rainfall and the maxima and minima shade temperature in Victoria for the last five years :—

Year.	Rainfall.	Maximum shade Temperature.	Minimum shade Temperature.
1896	115·08	87·2	68·0
1897	101·98	88·8	71·8
1898	97·63	82·9	77·4
1899	88·42	87·4	70·0
1900	110·75	88·7	74·1

Rain fell on 145 days in 1898, on 162 days in 1899, and on 174 days in 1900.

Wind. 84. The prevailing directions of the wind are S. and S.E., and N. and N.W. The average force of the wind during each month of 1900 is given in the following table. It will be noticed that the cool season, June to October, is the period during which the

winds are strongest. The prevailing wind during those months **SEYCHELLES,**
is the south-east trade. **1900.**

Month.	Miles per hour.
January	7
February	5.6
March	5
April	6.1
May	5.1
June	9.4
July	11.6
August	13.3
September... ..	11.6
October	9.3
November... ..	7.3
December	4.7

Seychelles has never been visited by a cyclone, but the destructive landslip which occurred in Mahé on the 12th October, 1862, is still vividly remembered by many of the inhabitants.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

85. The increase in the postal business done in 1900, as shown Increase in
from the following table, again bears witness to the expansion of postal
trade in Seychelles. The increase of 31,126 in the number of business.
letters received and sent in 1900 as compared with the number
received and sent in 1899 is partly due also to the introduction of

SEYCHELLES, the penny post, which has not resulted in the loss of revenue prophesied at the time.

Year	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Letters received	12,056	12,655	22,530	28,544	57,831
Letters sent	16,991	13,804	33,000	38,040	39,879
Newspapers, samples, &c., received.	4,086	4,033	18,930	47,540	59,379
Newspapers, samples, &c., sent	754	560	575	6,810	2,750
Parcels received	166	273	333	259	393
Parcels sent	417	460	804	392	422
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Money Orders issued	25,912	36,661	44,959	62,673	95,295
Money Orders paid	24,406	41,225	14,194	22,320	16,315

The total number of letters, newspapers, &c., and parcels passing through the post office exceeded in 1900 by 31,126 the number in 1899, while the value of the money order business done last year was greater by Rs. 26,612 than it was the year previous. It is to the credit of the Department that the additional work which this growth in the post office business entailed was efficiently performed without any permanent addition to the post office staff.

Mail service. 86. From February, 1900, the inward mails were brought to Seychelles every four weeks from Colombo by steamers of the British India Steamship Company under an agreement entered into by the Crown Agents on behalf of Mauritius and Seychelles, and the outward mails were carried by steamers belonging to the same Company direct from Seychelles to Aden. This mail service was performed throughout the year with commendable punctuality. In addition to this mail service, subsidised partly by the Imperial Government, and partly by the Mauritius and Seychelles Governments, steamers of the British India Company, trading between India and the East Coast of Africa, generally called at Seychelles on their outward and homeward voyages, and thus gave Seychelles the advantages of postal communication with India and Africa. The agreement with the British India Company was terminated at their own request at the end of one year from its taking effect, but it was renewed for twelve weeks more so that other arrangements might be made.

Inland postal service 87. The absence of an inland postal system, to which reference was made in the Report for 1899, has no longer to be deplored.

The necessary Regulations, under the Post Office Amendment Ordinance, were drawn up in 1900, and, thanks to the co-operation of merchants and traders who have allowed letter-boxes to be placed on their premises, in addition to those set up at the district police stations, an internal postal service was brought into force on the 1st January, 1901. The results of this service will be dealt with in the next Blue Book Report, but the local post appears to have been started on a sound system, and to be likely to prove a success.

88. Through the courtesy of the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, I am able to give the following interesting table showing the gradual increase in the number of cablegrams (exclusive of Reuter's) received at, and despatched from, the Company's office in Victoria, Mahé, for the six years ending on the 31st March, 1901:—

Year ending 31st March.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Number of cablegrams received and despatched.	1,168	1,435	1,745	1,767	1,967	2,244

That the number of cablegrams received and despatched should practically have doubled in six years is a significant fact, and it will be noted that this increase is coincident with the increase in postal statistics, in the returns of imports and exports, and in the revenue of Seychelles.

89. The Seychelles Government pays the Telegraph Company Rs.15,000 a year as its contribution for the maintenance of telegraphic communication between Seychelles and Mauritius and Seychelles and Zanzibar, and under an agreement, dated the 29th March, 1893, this sum is payable for 20 years. Seychelles also pays Rs.750 a year, under an agreement of the 23rd July, 1896, made between the Crown Agents on behalf of Seychelles and Reuter's Telegraph Company, for a daily supply of telegrams on matters of general interest. This agreement can be cancelled on six months' notice being given in any year before the 1st of September.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

90. The most important changes which occurred during the year, though not the most noticed, were the substitution of the Legal Adviser for the Judge as senior member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, and the limitation to three years of the tenure by unofficial members of their seats in the Legislative

SEYCHELLES, 1900. Council. These changes, which were effected by additional Royal Instructions of the 13th July, 1900, have given general satisfaction, and have worked well.

Loan works. 91. Excellent progress was made last year in the construction of roads out of the Imperial loan of £20,000. to which reference is made in paragraph 10 of this report. During 1900 Rs.5,422 were expended in connection with the survey of Mahé which has now been completed, whilst the cost of road work amounted to Rs.23,564.85, giving a total expenditure from loan funds of Rs.28,986.87.

The original programme of new road work for the year was completed at the end of September, and, during the remaining quarter of the year, additional new road work was satisfactorily carried out. This result was due to the road gangs being composed of carefully selected labourers; to competent overseers being placed in charge; and to constant and vigilant supervision being exercised by the responsible officers of the Public Works department.

Upkeep of roads. 92. In addition to what are termed "loan works," *i.e.*, the construction of new roads, good work has been done in maintaining in order the existing roads.

Cantonniers. 93. Thirty cantonniers, each of whom was assigned a certain length of road to keep in order, were employed during the year, and, with constant supervision and occasional assistance from road gangs, kept the roads in a creditable condition.

Existing roads in Mahé. 94. In Mahé the following roads now exist: 15 miles of first class roads, fit for wheeled traffic, 40 miles of second class roads, the gradients of many of which, owing to the hilly country which they traverse, are too great to admit of wheeled traffic, but can be ridden over. One and a half miles of streets in Victoria, the capital of Mahé; 50 miles of footpaths throughout the islands, used for traffic on foot only.

It is estimated that the total outlay in constructing roads during the last thirty years is not less than Rs. 618,000.

Rates of Wages. 95. The extension of vanilla plantations has resulted in a slight increase of wages during the year, the competition among planters for labourers becoming keener, but an ordinary estate labourer still only gets from Rs. 144 to Rs. 192 a year without rations, although the number of men employed at this lower rate is less than it was. The wages of male domestic servants vary from Rs. 192 to Rs. 240 a year, whilst a few of the best servants can command Rs. 25 a month and more. The wages of carpenters vary from Rs. 240 to Rs. 360 a year; of masons, from Rs. 240 to Rs. 400; and of blacksmiths, from Rs. 300 to Rs. 480. Dock labourers are paid from Rs. 1.25 to Rs. 2 a day.

96. Seychelles is not adapted for white labourers, though Europeans do well as managers of estates, and as owners of property. The extreme healthiness of the climate admits of persons living an outdoor life without the bad effects which are generally caused by exposure in tropical countries. Europeans, provided they are temperate, live regular lives, and wear during the day suitable sun helmets, can enjoy the same measure of good health as they have done in their own countries.

SEYCHELLES,
1900.
—
Seychelles
suitable for
European
planters and
managers,
but not
European
labourers.
Openings for
capital.

97. For a man of energy, perseverance, and temperate habits Seychelles affords as good an opening as any other tropical colony. But he must be provided with sufficient capital to enable him to buy land outright, and to wait until the crops give a return.

He must live on his estate, and make himself acquainted with the peculiarities of each vanilla vine, as well as those of his labourers. He must be ready to learn, and to make use of his knowledge when acquired. He should not rely, as many planters do, on the somewhat capricious return which a vanilla plantation gives, but endeavour to plant up his estate with other tropical products for which the climate and soil of Seychelles are well suited. He should, in fact, be guided by the same principles which actuate the skilled agriculturist in England and other countries, and remember that the chief elements of success are patience and hard work.

E. B. SWEET-ESCOTT,

Administrator.

Government House,

Seychelles,

July 15th, 1901.

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SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, see No. 333.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1902.



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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
343	Basutoland	1900-1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	1900
346	Northern Nigeria	1900-1901
347	British Solomon Islands	1900
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900-1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900-1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar	"
360	Straits Settlements	"
361	Sierra Leone	"
362	British Honduras	"
363	Turks and Caicos Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies.	Medical Reports
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands.	Report for 1896-1900
18	Hong Kong	Report on Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.

SEYCHELLES, 1901

No. 364.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1900, see No. 333.)

ADMINISTRATOR E. B. SWEET ESCOTT to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Seychelles,

16th July, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my Report on the Blue Book of the Seychelles Islands for the year 1901.

2. I have annexed to this Report a carefully prepared and interesting Report by Mr. R. Dupont, Curator of the Botanic Station, on the work of the station during the last year, and on the agricultural capabilities of these Islands. As the information which this Report contains has not been previously published, I shall be much obliged if Mr. Dupont's Report may be printed as an annexure to my Blue Book Report.

I have, &c.,

E. B. SWEET ESCOTT,

Administrator.

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1901.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue. 1. For the seventh year in succession the Revenue of Seychelles exceeded the Expenditure, and for the sixth time the Revenue has been greater than that of the preceding year.

In 1900, the Revenue of Seychelles was Rs. 399,311.65, or Rs. 36,520.59 more than was collected in 1899. In 1901 the total Revenue rose to Rs. 486,323.98, that is Rs. 87,012.33 more than the Revenue for 1900, and only Rs. 1,281 less than double the Revenue collected in 1896.

Expenditure 2. The total Expenditure, exclusive of the cost of works (survey and map of Mahé and construction of roads) defrayed from Loan Funds and amounting to Rs. 23,062.32, was Rs. 401,821.57, so that on the transactions of the year 1901 there was a surplus in favour of Revenue of Rs. 84,502.41. When it is borne in mind that the Revenue of Seychelles in 1871 was only Rs. 74,709, it must be admitted that the change which has taken place in thirty years in the financial position of these Islands is remarkable.

Total revenue and expenditure, 1897 to 1901 3. The following table gives the total Revenue and Expenditure of Seychelles for the last five years:—

Year.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
			Rs.	Rs.
1897	...	...	296,171	259,056
1898	...	...	316,176	276,365
1899	...	...	362,791	268,907
1900	...	...	399,311	351,919
1901	...	...	486,323	401,521

Revenue and expenditure of Local Board of Health, Central District. 4. On the 1st January, 1901, the Local Board of Health for the Central District of Mahé, *i.e.*, the town of Victoria, came into being, and in the total Revenue and Expenditure of Seychelles are included the funds allocated to, and the expenditure incurred by, the Board. The sources of Revenue assigned to the Board in 1901 produced Rs. 29,617.75 and the Expenditure of the Board amounted to Rs. 18,470.77, leaving a surplus of Revenue at the end of the year of Rs. 11,146.98.

5. In the following comparative statement of the Revenue for Details of 1900 and 1901, the Revenue of the Local Board of Health is revenue, 1900 and 1901. shown in a separate column:—

GENERAL REVENUE.

Heads of Receipts.	1900.	1901.	Local Board of Health Revenue, 1901.	Total General and Local Revenues, 1901.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1. Customs	229,121 85	263,402 96	—	263,402 96
2. Pilotage and Har- bour Dues.	6,408 20	5,544 44	—	5,544 44
3. Licenses, &c. ...	43,614 43	35,649 45	21,754 50	57,403 95
4. Taxes	45,328 71	54,909 97	5,156 01	60,065 98
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c.	33,040 79	25,972 37	2,581 70	28,554 07
6. Post Office ...	15,043 85	23,381 84	—	23,381 84
7. Rents of Govern- ment Property.	10,316 06	17,349 78	—	17,349 78
8. Interest	2,648 88	8,325 23	—	8,325 23
9. Miscellaneous ...	13,788 88	22,170 19	125 54	22,295 73
Total	399,311 65	456,706 23	29,617 75	486,323 98

6. The Revenue of 1901, compared with that of 1900, shows Causes of an increase under each head of receipt except "Pilotage and Harbour Dues," and "Fees of Court or Office, &c.," and the 1901. Increase in actual receipts under these two heads are greater than the estimated receipts for the year. The increase under "Customs" is partly due to the greater quantity of goods imported and guano exported, and partly to the re-arrangement of the tariff by Ordinance No. 29 of 1900.

The greater number of licenses taken out in 1901, the increase from Rs. 15 to Rs. 100 made by Ordinance No. 21 of 1900 in the six-monthly license duty payable by vanilla buyers, the additional license of Rs. 20 for every six months required by Ordinance No. 8 of 1901 from retailers of spirits, wine, and beer, and a slight change in fishing licenses effected by Ordinance No. 20 of 1901, are the causes of the additional total Revenue raised from "Licenses, &c."

The operation of the Consolidating Local Rate Ordinance, No. 16 of 1900, is mainly accountable for the increase in receipts under "Taxes."

The growing postal business of Seychelles, the successful introduction of an internal postal system, the transmission by

parcel post of a considerable quantity of vanilla, an unusually large sale of stamps to stamp collectors and to persons who now purchase stamps for sale to the public, receiving from the Government a commission of 5 per cent., account for the increase in "Post Office" receipts.

The larger extent of Crown land under lease, the greater amount of surplus funds invested, and the royalty of Rs. 5 a ton which, under an agreement with the Government is now paid on a minimum of 3,000 tons of guano to be taken annually from the Amirantes Islands, caused an increase in the Revenue derived from "Rents of Government Property," "Interest," and "Miscellaneous" respectively.

Details of
expenditure,
1900 and
1901.

7. In the following comparative statement of disbursements the expenditure of Seychelles for 1901 from General Revenue Funds only is given, the expenditure of the Local Board of Health for the Central District being detailed in paragraph 9.

GENERAL EXPENDITURE.

Heads of Service.	1900.		1901.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	55,525	38	14,816	25
2. Pensions and Gratuities	12,096	40	14,573	75
3. Administrator and Legislature	23,521	67	20,880	63
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department.	16,348	93	17,526	93
5. Audit Department	3,557	42	3,760	82
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	10,028	49	11,739	66
7. Legal Department	25,815	43	29,565	88
8. Police Department	28,991	14	29,256	77
9. Prison Department	10,026	78	11,598	29
10. Medical Department	21,852	04	28,966	16
11. Sanitary and Board of Health	8,258	80	—	—
12. Ecclesiastical Department	9,902	98	10,822	93
13. Education Department	15,723	36	19,267	36
14. Printing Department... ..	3,368	10	4,565	73
15. Post Office Department	6,438	02	9,074	75
16. Transport	25	00	847	45
17. Crown Lands Department	4,153	55	—	—
17a. Botanic Station	—	—	7,878	30
18. Exchange	4,841	94	3,486	76
19. Miscellaneous	21,418	94	21,189	11
20. Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies	25,200	31	46,321	38
21. Public Works Department	9,212	86	15,439	50
22. Public Works, Recurrent	18,002	39	21,222	46
23. Public Works, Extraordinary	17,610	64	40,549	93
Total	351,919	71	383,350	80

8. The sum of Rs. 14,816.25 under "Charge on Account of Public Debt" represents the annuity of principal and interest combined on the Imperial Loan of £20,000. The amount paid under this head in 1900 was the balance of a debt to Mauritius which dated back to 1871 when the finances of Seychelles were under the control of the Mauritius Government. The separation of the finances took place in 1872, but, at the time of separation, Seychelles was debited with a sum of £3,649 18s. 5d., which, on the 31st of March, 1885, had increased to Rs. 105,363.23. From that date onwards the debt was paid off by annual instalments until final extinction in April, 1900. The increase under "Legal Department" mainly results from the creation of the offices of Justice of the Peace, and that under "Medical Department" from a rearrangement of the staff, the purchase of drugs for sale to the public rendered necessary by the closing of the only chemist's shop in Seychelles, and the transfer of the cost of quarantine services to the vote for the Medical Department.

Provision for "Sanitary and Board of Health," excluding quarantine services, was contained in the estimates for the new Local Board of Health, and the above heading now disappears from the Estimates.

The increase in the Education vote was due to the raising of the salary of the Inspector of Schools, the better payment of monitors in the Victoria School, the addition of upwards of Rs. 2,000 to the grants for Aided Schools, and the creation of an Infant School in connection with the Victoria School. The establishment of an internal postal system is mainly responsible for the increase under Post Office Department. The Crown Lands Department was merged last year in the Public Works Department, and this change and the new appointment of an assistant surveyor account for the increased expenditure in the latter department.

The expenditure under the heading "Miscellaneous," which again was considerably in excess of the Estimate for the year, although slightly less than that of the previous year, included the sums of Rs. 2,905.77 for destruction of rats, Rs. 1,000 for an agricultural exhibition, and Rs. 7,500 as the contribution of Seychelles to the Victoria Imperial Memorial Fund. For none of these services had provision been made in the Estimates.

The subsidy to the British India Company from April to December, 1900, was only paid by the Crown Agents in 1901, and this deferred payment caused an unexpected excess on the vote for "Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies." The construction of quarters and offices for the Assistant Medical Officers and Justices of the Peace at Praslin and Anse Royale, South Mahé; the completion of a new King's warehouse in stone; the transfer of the Leper Asylum and Pauper Camp from Curieuse Island

near Praslin; the purchase and laying down of pipes for a water supply at Baie St. Anne, Praslin; and at Anse Royale, South Mahé—these services mainly account for the expenditure under “Public Works Extraordinary” in 1901 exceeding that for 1900, although it was some Rs. 15,000 less than the amount estimated to be expended during the year.

Details of
Local Board
of Health,
Central
District,
expenditure,
1901.

9. The expenditure of the Local Board of Health for the Central District (Town of Victoria) was in previous years provided for under the heading “Sanitary and Board of Health,” which also included provision for quarantine services.

In 1900 the expenditure under this heading was Rs. 8,258.80, of which Rs. 1,180.33 were devoted to quarantine services. From the following statement it will be seen that the expenditure on the town of Victoria was Rs. 18,470.77, or Rs. 11,392.30 more than that of 1900. For 1902 the estimated expenditure is Rs. 29,082.

Expenditure of Local Board of Health, Central District.

Head of Service.				1901.
				Rs. cts.
Local Board of Health Staff and Office Expenses.				3,597 60
Streets	...	...	...	8,115 04
Scavengering	...	...	...	1,437 53
Fire Department	...	...	...	30 00
Market and Slaughter-house	...	...	...	1,043 82
Cemeteries	...	...	...	2,545 47
Water Supply	...	...	...	1,701 31
Total...	...	...	...	18,470 77

Changes in
taxation.

10. The only changes made in taxation were the imposition of an additional duty of Rs. 20 for a six-monthly license for the sale by retail of spirits, wine, and beer to be consumed on the premises, and the raising from Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 of the six-monthly licenses of hotel, tavern, and restaurant keepers, a slight alteration in fishing licenses, and a readjustment of Harbour Dues.

Assets and
Liabilities.

11. On the 31st December, 1901, the Assets of Seychelles exceeded its Liabilities by Rs. 328,637.84. If to this sum is added the surplus of Assets over Liabilities of the Local Board of Health for the Central District of Mahé, amounting to Rs. 11,124.38, the total surplus is Rs. 339,762.22 or Rs. 23,586.41 more than the total Revenue of Seychelles for any year up to and including the year 1898.

The following table shows the position of Seychelles as regards its Assets and Liabilities from 1884 to 1901:—

Year	Amount.	Remarks.
	Rs. cts.	
31st December, 1884 ...	90,651 92	Excess of Liabilities over Assets.
" 1885 ...	64,108 29	" "
" 1886 ...	46,383 29	" "
" 1887 ...	8,777 38	" "
" 1888 ...	2,602 40	Surplus of Assets over Liabilities.
" 1889 ...	9,653 07	" "
" 1890 ...	12,512 96	" "
" 1891 ...	14,399 42	" "
" 1892 ...	304 64	" "
" 1893 ...	11,718 34	" "
" 1894 ...	37,033 14	Excess of Liabilities over Assets.
" 1895 ...	13,126 96	" "
" 1896 ...	15,488 01	" "
" 1897 ...	2,017 04	Surplus of Assets over Liabilities.
" 1898 ...	67,436 73	" "
" 1899 ...	126,426 26	" "
" 1900 ...	236,513 85	" "
" 1901 ...	339,762 22 ^c	" "

^c Includes Rs. 11,124.38, being surplus of Assets over Liabilities of Local Board of Health, Central District of Mahé.

12. The investments of the Government, which on the 31st Investments. December, 1899, were only Rs. 22,350, amounted on the 31st December, 1900, to Rs. 239,258.48, and on the 31st December, 1901, to Rs. 250,378.71.

13. The Public Debt of Seychelles, consisting of the loan Public Debt. from the Imperial Treasury of £20,000 (Rs. 300,000) under the Colonial Loans Act, 1899, and Seychelles Ordinance No. 1 of 1900, for the construction of new roads in, and for the survey of, the Island of Mahé, on the 31st December last was Rs. 285,183.75, the first annual repayment of principal and interest combined, amounting to £987 15s. 0d. (Rs. 14,816.25) having been made in April, 1901, or one year after the actual raising of the loan. The last payment of this annuity is due on the 26th April, 1930. The following statement shows the expenditure from Loan Funds from 1897 to 1901 inclusive:—

Year.	Road Construction.	Survey of Mahé.	Totals.	Loan Funds expenditure 1897 to 1901
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	
1897... ..	10,119 22	115 25	10,234 47	
1898... ..	101,370 78	8,804 18	110,174 96	
1899... ..	106,303 22	8,419 23	114,722 45	
1900... ..	23,567 25	5,420 52	28,987 77	
1901... ..	22,062 65	999 67	23,062 32	
Total	263,423 12	23,758 85	287,181 97	

At the end of 1901 the balance of the Loan was Rs. 12,818.03, and this sum, it is estimated, will be exhausted towards the close of the third quarter of the current year.

Financial
results of
1900 and
1901.

14. The financial results of the last two years may be briefly summarised as follows:—

Revenue, greater by Rs. 123,532.92 than it was in 1899; surplus of Assets over Liabilities increased by Rs. 213,335.96; Investments increased by Rs. 228,028.71; and Interest on Investments by Rs. 7,614.53; whilst in all departments there has been a rearrangement of salaries and in most an increase of staff to the great advantage of the Service. Improvements in many directions have been carried out, involving considerable expenditure, and a Botanical Department established. Lastly, the expenditure for "Public Works Recurrent" and "Public Works Extraordinary," which for the years 1898 and 1899 was Rs. 54,294.88, totalled for 1900 and 1901 Rs. 97,385.42, or Rs. 43,090.54 more.

In view of the foregoing facts, it is not too much to say that the present financial position of Seychelles may be regarded as satisfactory, and the future can be faced with confidence.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports 15. The declared value of imports in 1901 amounted to Rs. 1,149,646, being greater by Rs. 168,735 than the declared value of imports in 1900, and by Rs. 165,980 than the declared value of imports in any previous year.

Exports. 16. The declared value of exports was Rs. 1,417,515, or Rs. 381,354 more than the declared value of exports in 1900, but less than the declared value of exports in 1896, 1897, and 1899.

If there had not been a marked falling off in the value of vanilla the total value of exports in 1901 would have largely exceeded the total value of any previous year. In 1899 the quantity of vanilla exported was 41,835 kilos., or more than in any previous year, and its declared value was Rs. 1,338,720. In 1901 the quantity exported was no less than 71,899 kilos.; but its declared value was only Rs. 1,108,792, so that although more vanilla by 30,064 kilos. was exported in 1901 than in 1899, its declared value at the Customs was less by Rs. 229,928 than the declared value of the vanilla in 1899.

The actual value was probably even lower, for, as a general rule, the declared value was Rs. 8 a lb., whereas the actual value did not probably exceed Rs. 6 a lb.

17. In the following table are given the total values of imports, with and without specie, for the last five years:—

Year.		Imports without specie	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1897	...	942,017	1,222,411	1,503,701	1,567,295
1898	...	889,041	1,009,640	1,278,382	1,381,514
1899	...	984,666	1,041,890	1,853,362	1,897,662
1900	...	980,911	1,000,911	1,036,161	1,052,211
1901	...	1,149,646	1,210,646	1,417,515	1,483,245

Comparative
table of im-
ports and
exports,
1897-1901.

18. The following table gives a comparative statement of the principal articles imported in 1900 and 1901, and the countries of origin:—

Comparative
table of
principal
imports,
1900, 1901.

	United Kingdom.		India.		Mauritius.		France.		Zanzibar.	
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Coal	126,384	106,500	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Coffee	69,590	108,222	18,384	22,045	992	499	—	—	—	—
Cotton Goods	9	210	23,486	28,317	2,115	12,763	3,049	10,795	17	605
Flour	25,159	19,328	19,595	20,080	16	10,190	—	—	180	2,086
Haberdashery and millinery	28,883	36,234	12,366	20,080	605	7,880	29,549	24,596	37	140
Iron goods	8,053	5,173	3,055	1,575	2,330	14,056	1,955	8,077	60	50
Lamps, hardware, and cutlery	5,886	7,022	2,442	696	4,771	1,117	2,043	1,732	10	—
Leather boots and shoes	7,940	13,419	2,941	1,532	359	1,189	1,301	3,391	—	—
Provisions	—	—	1,573	1,737	842	4,099	631	3,079	—	67
Rice	437	915	179,821	173,328	22,984	50,333	—	—	4	8,871
Soap	10,714	14,001	1,823	546	104	106	2,518	1,842	—	9
Spirits of all kinds	—	—	20	—	15,706	20,560	19,000	23,274	—	—
Sugar	—	—	—	866	44,182	40,227	—	—	—	273
Wine of all kinds	29	—	300	—	1,690	4,477	59,262	69,189	—	—

19. The value of imports during the last five years from those countries from which Seychelles principally draws its supplies is given in the following table:—

Country.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	248,798	136,550	323,406	359,862	400,725
India ...	235,144	317,123	334,693	316,112	304,748
Mauritius ...	127,661	137,802	123,641	153,363	282,446
France ...	104,519	131,496	177,619	152,532	192,260

The noteworthy features of the two last tables seem to be a greater demand on the part of the people of Seychelles for goods of all kinds; increased consumption of wine and spirits; the gradual growth of trade with the United Kingdom, the value of the imports from which now exceeds by nearly Rs. 100,000 the imports from any other country; and the extension of trade with Mauritius. The interruption last year, for nearly four months, of a regular mail service to and from Seychelles compelled many merchants to obtain supplies from Mauritius, with the result that the declared value of the imports from Mauritius in 1901 was nearly Rs. 130,000 more than it was in 1900.

No coffee was imported last year from India, and, seeing that as much coffee was consumed as hitherto, it would appear that the local Liberian coffee, which is of excellent quality, is coming into favour.

There is abundance of good coffee in Seychelles not only to meet the demands of the local market but for export.

20. The following table gives, for the last two years, the declared value at the Customs of the principal exports of Seychelles, showing the chief countries to which they were exported:—

Comparative table of principal exports, 1900, 1901.

	Cocoa.		Cocoanuts.		Guano.		Oil (cocoanut).		Salted fish.		Soap.		Tortoiseshell.		Vanilla.	
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.
United Kingdom	Rs. 5,477	Rs. 2,551	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. 8,500	Rs. —	Rs. 6	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. 7,682	Rs. 13,106	Rs. 423,243	Rs. 512,641
France ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,101	2,975	155,907	560,616
Mauritius ...	30	—	23,282	19,509	21,895	37,933	117,012	95,378	—	2,130	—	—	4,850	—	900	84,703
India ...	—	500	1,570	2,166	—	—	89,820	24,802	2,228	—	—	—	100	—	—	—
Zanzibar...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,965	950	150	—	33,486	23,780	—	—	—	—
Madagascar	—	—	—	780	—	—	—	15,000	—	—	—	6,785	—	—	—	5
Aden ...	858	—	223	1,833	—	—	818	6,953	—	—	—	45	6,200	1,017	—	—
Réunion...	—	—	1,763	1,683	2,814	2-0	1,331	2,668	1,864	250	1,050	950	—	—	92	826
Germany	—	—	—	—	—	4,750	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Australia	—	—	—	—	—	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nossi-Bé	—	—	685	—	—	—	52,919	—	—	—	1,242	—	—	—	—	—

21. The principal countries to which Seychelles exports its produce are still the United Kingdom, France, Mauritius, and India, and the declared value of the exports to these countries during the last five years is given in the following table:—

Country.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	637,906	505,505	907,142	437,756	537,135
France ...	348,330	290,958	472,314	173,124	563,922
Mauritius ...	152,579	157,094	107,919	177,843	205,266
India ...	264,605	234,711	271,997	110,121	78,354

22. For the first time France heads the list of countries receiving the exports of Seychelles, and the United Kingdom is only second. The explanation is that more vanilla in 1901 was sent to France, notwithstanding the high duty levied on it by that country, than was sent to England, the declared value of the vanilla exported to France exceeding the declared value of the vanilla exported to England by Rs. 47,975.

23. The exports to India fell off in 1901 to a remarkable extent, partly owing to the discontinuance of regular communication between Seychelles and India, and partly owing to the better price for cocoanut oil obtainable in Mauritius. Whilst the declared value of cocoanut oil exported to India in 1901 was only Rs. 24,802 against Rs. 89,820 in 1900, the declared value of oil exported to Mauritius was Rs. 96,378.

24. Again, guano of the declared value of Rs. 37,933 and vanilla of the declared value of Rs. 34,703 were exported to Mauritius last year, and so the total declared value of exports to Mauritius in 1901 exceeded that of the preceding year by Rs. 27,423.

25. The cultivation of the cocoanut palm must, and should be, one of the principal industries of Seychelles. The necessity of paying more attention to the treatment of the palm, and of increasing its productiveness by some system of manuring, is brought out very strongly in the following table, which shows that in 1901 the total declared value of cocoanuts, cocoanut oil, and soap exported was less by Rs. 155,074 than it was in 1891, and less by Rs. 280,813 than it was in 1896:—

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

Year.	Cocoanuts.		Coconut oil.		Soap.		Total value of cocoanuts, coconut oil, and soap exported.
	No. of nuts.	Ra.	Hectolitres.	Ra.	Kilograms.	Ra.	
1891	1,161,839	18,666	14,910	286,978	253,786	54,751	360,395
1892	1,560,950	29,227	13,861	274,299	197,570	41,242	344,768
1893	1,345,800	26,736	13,576	340,270	15,025	4,101	371,107
1894	1,525,532	30,510	13,939	338,784	12,398	3,480	372,774
1895	1,632,860	32,647	14,048	375,908	2,196	724	409,279
1896	1,293,136	26,237	15,122	441,882	68,388	18,015	486,134
1897	1,492,475	29,849	13,521	362,968	72,705	21,810	414,627
1898	1,695,236	34,094	8,808	236,430	189,645	56,923	327,447
1899	983,418	19,667	14,705	392,055	91,696	30,564	442,286
1900	1,083,302	27,524	12,044	268,609	159,142	35,778	331,911
1901	1,071,732	26,228	9,419	147,533	116,095	31,560	205,321

26. It cannot, I am afraid, be urged that the falling off in the value of exports of cocoanuts, coconut oil, and soap is due to the large number of cocoanuts used in the extension of coconut plantations. It is rather attributable to neglect of existing plantations in favour of the cultivation of vanilla. Admirably suited as are the climate and soil of Mahé, Praslin, La Digue, Silhouette, and many other islands for the cultivation of this valuable orchid, the abandonment or even partial neglect of coconut plantations is much to be deplored. In view of the many uses to which cocoanuts can be put, the danger of over-production is slight, but, in the case of vanilla, which, so far, is only used for flavouring purposes, the position is different: and the danger of over-production is considerable.

There is a capriciousness about the yield of vanilla, and even a greater capriciousness about its price, which renders it desirable that planters should have some other products of economic value to rely on when the yield of vanilla is small or its selling price unremunerative.

27. This conclusion seems to be justified by the following statement showing the quantity of vanilla exported from Seychelles, and its declared value at the Customs, from 1891 to 1901:—

Year.	Quantity in Kilos.	Declared Value.
		Rs.
1891	40,929	373,190
1892	28,177	394,478
1893	28,869	346,428
1894	24,444	293,328
1895	4,553	60,344
1896	31,227	936,000
1897	30,691	920,730
1898	25,177	748,810
1899	41,835	1,338,720
1900	17,569	580,877
1901	71,899	1,108,792

Nearly the same amount of vanilla was exported in 1891 as in 1899, and yet the declared value of the vanilla of 1899 exceeded the declared value of the vanilla of 1891 by almost Rs. 1,000,000.

In 1901 the quantity of vanilla exported exceeded four times the quantity exported in 1900, and, had prices been maintained, the declared value of the vanilla exported should have been over Rs. 2,000,000, or four times what it was in 1900, but it will be seen that it was not quite twice as much, and, as has been pointed out before, the declared value probably exceeded the actual value. There can, I think, be no doubt that vanilla will

continue to be a valuable product, and it is certain that in Seychelles it has found a congenial home, but it is subject to considerable fluctuations as to size of crop and as to price, and, when estates admit of other products being cultivated with profit, as many do, reliance should not be placed on vanilla alone.

The first year for which there is any record of vanilla being exported from Seychelles is 1877, and in this year the quantity was 60 kilos., valued at Rs. 1,195. The next year, the quantity exported rose to 147 kilos., valued at Rs. 2,950, but fell in 1879 to 8 kilos., valued at Rs. 160. In 1880 the export of vanilla amounted to 1,713 kilos., valued at Rs. 22,877, and from that year Seychelles has never looked back as a vanilla-producing country. Unfortunately, as has already been shown, the attraction of vanilla cultivation has prejudicially affected the cocoanut industry, and the export of cocoanut oil, which in 1880 was 18,993 hectolitres, fell in 1901 to 9,419 hectolitres—a very serious drop.

Export of
minor
products,
1891 to 1901.

28. Of the other agricultural exports of Seychelles which are at present capable of extension, cloves, cocoa, and coffee are the principal, and in the following table the quantities exported from 1891 onwards, with their declared values, are given. Guano, the export of which will probably be much increased before long, and tortoiseshell are added to the list.

Year.	Cloves.		Cocoa.		Coffee.		Guano.		Tortoiseshell.	
	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Tons. 4 (cases)	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.
1891	...	1,629	5,702	4,714	111	48	—	—	2,082	39,059
1892	...	4,831	5,779	4,584	—	—	—	—	2,679	53,480
1893	...	3,408	7,008	5,602	21	36	—	—	2,402	76,864
1894	...	48,682	1,650	1,650	—	—	—	—	1,736	52,080
1895	...	8,360	12,048	9,921	201	241	390	9,650	1,802	74,706
1896	...	6,685	6,794	4,905	158	158	1,183	22,660	1,701	65,760
1897	...	837	5,714	4,566	627	597	120	2,400	1,522	59,341
1898	...	2,696	8,452	6,762	699	699	316	7,912	1,281	40,992
1899	...	2,336	7,891	5,049	4,481	2,688	1,940	19,400	973	30,859
1900	...	2,515	7,287	6,365	2,565	1,464	3,277	42,169	1,440	35,933
1901	...	375	5,163	3,051	548	921	5,598	51,483	835	17,099
1901	...	1,630								

(B.) MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

(D.) GRANTS OF LAND.

Fisheries.

29. Under these three headings there is nothing new for me to record this year, and I confirm generally the remarks made in the Blue Book Report for 1900.

The Fisheries Ordinances, the proposed passing of which was referred to in that Report, became law as Ordinances Nos. 16 and 20 of 1901, and their scope is given under the heading "Legislation" in the present Report.

Already the good effects of these Ordinances are seen, and the prevention of the wholesale destruction of undersized hawksbill turtle and fish should ultimately lead to a larger export of tortoise-shell, which, it will be seen from the table showing the export of minor products, has much decreased since 1892, and will tend to reduce the price of fish caught for home consumption, whilst increasing the quantity of fish salted for export.

Agriculture.

30. The Curator of the Botanic Station has so fully discussed in his Report for 1901, which is annexed to this Report, the present position of agriculture in Seychelles, and its possibilities for the future, that no further comment from me is required.

Want of labour and want of capital.

But I desire to place on record my opinion that, although the existing supply of agricultural labourers is insufficient, the want of capital amongst the generality of planters, and the impossibility of obtaining advances on reasonable terms are matters of more serious import.

31. Land hunger, if carried to excess, is fraught with much evil. The man who buys an estate with borrowed money, on which he must pay interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, and 3 per cent. commission, with the condition attached to the loan that the borrower must sell his produce to the lender at the "prix courant," thus precluding him from taking advantage of a sudden rise in the market, is seriously handicapped in his efforts as an agriculturist, and has practically bartered his independence in order to become a landowner. But it is seldom that the rate of interest on money borrowed on immoveable property is so low as 12 per cent. per annum, and there are few industries which will, through a term of years, stand even this charge. Owing to the interruption of regular communication by steamers with India, it has not been possible to obtain labourers from that country, but now that there is direct communication with Ceylon by steamers of the German East Africa Company, which call at Seychelles every eight weeks on their voyages to the East coast of Africa, it is hoped that labourers both for estates and for employment on public works may be found in that Colony at lower rates of wages than are required by the natives of these islands.

32. There were no grants of lands in 1901. The island of *Leases of Curieuse* and the Aldabra group of Islands, including the *Coa-Crown Land*, *moledo Group*, and *Astove* and *Assumption* were leased, on favourable terms, during the year.

The Government has now very little unleased land to dispose of, and land suitable for plantations, or land already under occupation does not often come into the open market. It seems, however, likely that before long, a few estates may be for sale.

33. I have recently received through the Honorary Secretary *Brokers'* and Director of the Imperial Institute, whose courtesy and practical interest in the development of these islands I gratefully *report on* acknowledge, an important report from Messrs. Lewis and Peat *samples of* of *Mincing Lane*, London, a firm of very high standing, on *Seychelles* certain samples of Seychelles products which were exhibited at the Agricultural Exhibition held in September last, and were subsequently forwarded to the Imperial Institute for a reliable report as to their value in the London Market. As this report shows not only the varied but the valuable nature of existing products, I give it in *extenso*.

"Cloves. Fine bold large heads, Penang character, red stems, worth about 4½*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.

Pepper. Black, rather light weight, something between Singapore and Penang, about 5½*d.* to 5¾*d.* per lb.

Coffee. No. 1. Liberian, bold, well cured, pale colours, about 38*s.* to 40*s.* per cwt.

No. 2. Liberian, very bold, yellowish, but probably broken in the cleaning, about 35*s.* per cwt.

No. 3. Arabica, small Java character, pale, about 48*s.* to 50*s.* per cwt.

Honey. Liquid amber, good flavour, but apparently reboiled, and unfit for bottling, being sugary. Value for manufacturing purposes, about 15*s.* per cwt.

Vanillas. No. 1. 8—8½ inch, good flavour, good colour and condition, well cured, value 20*s.* per lb.

No. 2. 7 inch ditto, value 15*s.* per lb.

No. 3. 7 inch special, chemically cured, rather fresh, and not such good flavour, value 12*s.* to 13*s.* per lb.

No. 4. Good bean but old and dried up, lean, value 7*s.* to 8*s.* per lb.

Copra. Fine, sun-dried, sound and sweet, value £20 per ton.

Cocoanut oil. Fine, white, value £35 to £37 per ton.

Cocoa. No. 1. Ceylon cure, very dull and poor, break rather dark, and some unsound; probably left wet too long after washing; about 60*s.* per cwt.

No. 2. Smaller but brighter, better cured, rather dark break, about 58*s.* to 60*s.* per cwt.

No. 3. Mixed colour and break, rather unsound break, about 56s. to 58s. per cwt.

Mandioca flour. No. 1. About 4s. 6d. per cwt.

No. 2. About 5s. per cwt.

Arrowroot. Rather thin and poor colour, about 3d. to 3½d. per lb."

(E.) SHIPPING.

Comparative
tables of
shipping.

34. The following four tables show the number, tonnage, and nationalities of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared during the last two years:—

(1.) *Sailing Vessels Entered.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1900 ...	16	2,186	4	321	1	1,234	4	2,484	25	6,115
1901 ...	19	2,984	3	236	—	—	3	1,307	25	4,527

(2.) *Sailing Vessels Cleared.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1900 ...	16	2,125	4	321	1	1,234	5	2,686	26	6,336
1901 ...	19	2,565	3	115	—	—	3	1,307	25	3,987

(3.) Steamers Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Austrian.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Portuguese.		Spanish.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1900	70	138,086	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	1	3,149	1	1,120	1	400	—	1	1,800	—	—	—	75	152,455
1901	36	75,850	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	11	22,927	7	50,511	—	—	1	1,376	1	638	1	1,860	64	164,975

(4.) Steamers Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Austrian.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Portuguese.		Spanish.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1900	70	138,086	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	1	3,149	1	1,120	1	400	—	1	1,800	—	—	—	75	152,455
1901	36	75,850	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	11	22,927	7	50,511	—	—	1	1,376	1	638	1	1,860	64	164,975

35. The following tables, which are numbered (5) and (6) for facility of reference, give information respecting the men-of-war of all nations which have visited Seychelles during the last five years, and a comparative statement of the total shipping, inwards and outwards, during the same period.

(5.) Comparative Statement of Men-of-War entered at Seychelles from 1897-1901.

Year.	British.			American.			Austrian.			Dutch.			French.			German.			Italian.			Portuguese.			Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	
1897	6	15,870	64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	650	6	2	3,292	19	—	—	—	1	729	4	20,541
1898	5	10,890	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2,323	16	1	1,450	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,763
1899	5	9,871	30	—	—	—	1	2,440	10	1	7,000	12	1	2,000	4	4	14,589	78	1	1,399	4	1	2,993	2	40,292
1900	10	27,631	79	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	8	1	3,149	14	1	1,490	48	1	400	4	1	1,800	12	42,000
1901	4	13,124	12	3	5,283	48	2	3,880	27	—	—	—	1	3,149	28	7	50,511	92	—	—	—	1	638	5	76,585
Totals	30	77,366	233	3	5,283	48	3	6,320	37	2	14,900	20	8	11,171	68	15	71,162	202	2	1,799	8	4	6,160	23	194,181

(6.) Comparative Statement of Total Shipping Inwards and Outwards from 1897-1901.

Year.	—	British.		American.		Austrian.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Portuguese.		Spanish.		Totals.		Total Tonnage Inwards and Outwards.
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	
1897	Inwards	56	65,141	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	650	2	8,292	—	—	1	1,404	1	729	—	—	61	71,216	186,485
1898	Outwards	52	61,149	—	—	—	—	1	808	8	860	2	8,292	—	—	—	—	1	729	—	—	56	65,219	186,806
	Inwards	49	60,580	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8,208	1	1,650	—	—	—	1,404	—	—	—	—	58	65,288	
1899	Outwards	54	64,766	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	8,208	1	1,650	—	—	—	1,404	—	—	—	—	64	71,028	192,178
	Inwards	46	62,928	—	—	—	—	7,000	7,000	6	2,881	5	15,961	1	1,899	4	1,264	—	2,998	—	—	64	96,268	
1900	Outwards	45	62,839	—	—	1	2,400	7,000	7,000	6	2,881	5	15,961	1	1,899	3	992	—	2,998	—	—	62	95,915	317,891
	Inwards	86	140,222	—	—	—	—	7,900	7,900	6	8,470	2	2,854	1	400	4	2,424	1	1,800	—	—	100	158,570	
1901	Outwards	86	140,211	—	—	—	—	7,900	7,900	5	8,470	2	2,854	1	400	5	2,686	1	1,800	—	—	101	158,821	368,464
	Inwards	55	78,694	3	6,288	2	8,880	2	2,860	14	22,968	7	60,511	—	—	4	2,686	—	688	1	1,860	89	169,502	
	Outwards	55	78,415	3	6,288	2	8,880	2	2,860	14	22,968	7	60,511	—	—	4	2,686	—	688	1	1,860	89	168,962	1,020,774
	Totals ...	564	815,082	6	10,566	6	12,560	9	86,808	66	65,118	84	147,586	4	8,698	26	15,590	8	12,819	2	8,720	744	1,130,774	

36. The decrease in the shipping under tables (1) and (2) is unimportant, the number of sailing vessels entered in 1901 being the same as the number entered in 1900, and the excess of tonnage in 1900 being due to the arrival of a German ship of some size and to the Norwegian vessels which called in 1900 being larger than those calling in 1901.

36A. There are three points of considerable interest in the return of shipping given in tables (3) and (4), one of which is explained by reference to the comparative statement given in table (5). The first is the marked decrease in the number and tonnage of British steamers entered and cleared, which is principally due to the steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company having discontinued calling at Seychelles; the second is the large increase in the number and tonnage of French steamers entered and cleared in consequence of the steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Company taking the place, from August, 1901, of those of the British India Company in conveying the mails to and from Seychelles; and the third is the very great increase in the tonnage of German vessels entered and cleared, which is explained by the presence in Seychelles waters of the fleet proceeding to the Far East. This fleet was composed of the battleships "Kurfürst Friedrich Wilhelm," "Brandenburg," "Weissenburg," and "Woerth," and the cruiser "Hela," and their total tonnage was 42,036.

36B. Three American ships of war, on their return from China, also took advantage of the coaling facilities which Mahé affords, and made the easier and better homeward passage from the East *via* Seychelles, rather than the shorter and rougher passage direct to Aden.

36C. Provision for the regular inspection of the islands within a radius of sixty miles of Mahé, will be made this year, as, through the courtesy of the Indian Government, a sea-going steam launch, 55 feet long and 11 feet in width, is now being built in the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard at Bombay. Inquiries are also being made with the view of purchasing a suitable schooner. Meanwhile a medical officer has been appointed for the special purpose of acting as Visiting Magistrate of all outlying islands of the Seychelles Archipelago, some of which are between 600 and 700 miles distant from Mahé.

36D. The appointment of a Medical Officer to be Visiting Magistrate will be beneficial, as he will not only administer justice in the islands which he visits, but will also be able to give the inhabitants the benefit of his medical advice and treatment.

36E. The establishment in January, 1901, of a proper and permanent signal station on one of the mountains near Victoria which commands a good view of the surrounding sea has proved

very useful to shipping and a boon to the public, as all approaching vessels are promptly signalled, the signals being repeated at the Port Office. In addition to the ships calling at Mahé, 33 steamers and 3 sailing vessels were sighted from the signal station.

36*r*. No shipping casualties occurred during the year in the harbour or on the coast of Mahé and the adjacent islands, but the schooner "Maggie Low," registered in Mauritius, was wrecked on the 1st September on the south end of Providence Bank on her way from Mahé to Farquhar Island, which is still a dependency of Mauritius. The schooner became a total wreck, but only one life was lost, that of a sailor who tried to reach Providence Island on a raft. The captain, crew, and passengers were eventually rescued by boats sent from Providence, and were finally brought back to Mahé on the 4th December in a schooner belonging to the owners of Providence.

III.—LEGISLATION.

37. During the year 1901, 18 meetings of the Legislative Council were held, and 21 Ordinances, or 11 fewer than in 1900, passed.

Of these Ordinances the following are the most important:— Principal

No. 2. "The Agricultural Board Ordinance," which made ordinances.
provision for the establishment of an Agricultural Board to advise on all questions and matters concerning agriculture or botanical stations and gardens which may be referred to it by the Administrator.

This Board has already done good work, and, being composed of gentlemen who are either actively engaged in or have had experience of tropical agriculture, and presided over by the Curator of the Botanic Station, it is in a position to afford the Government the best local advice obtainable in its endeavour to develop the resources of Seychelles and to foster new industries.

No. 5. "The Patents Ordinance, 1901," which regulates the manner of application for patents and affords protection to persons who have been granted patents for inventions.

No. 6, which renders it lawful for the Administrator to order the detention during His Majesty's pleasure at Mahé or at any other island of the Seychelles Archipelago, of any political prisoner or prisoners deported from the Uganda Protectorate. Under this Ordinance the ex-Kings of Uganda, Mwanga, and Kabarega and their respective wives are now detained in a comfortable residence near Victoria, the capital of Mahé.

No. 7, which makes provision for the administration of Summary Justice in the Seychelles Islands, and the appointment of Justices of the Peace.

The powers given by this Ordinance have been vested in the Assistant Medical Officers stationed at Praslin and in the Southern District of Mahé, and a great boon has been conferred on the residents in those districts.

No. 9, which regulates the construction and working of tramways, facilitates the adoption of proposals for laying down tramways, and protects promoters and companies from malicious injuries to lines and cars.

No. 10, which simplifies and, in some cases, reduces the dues levied on vessels entering or leaving the harbour of Victoria. Under this Ordinance, British or foreign men-of-war or transports, vessels belonging to the Government of Seychelles, private yachts, and vessels touching at Port Victoria without entering the inner harbour are exempted from all dues.

No. 16, which amends the previous law concerning turtles, gives much needed protection to the green turtle or "tortue de mer," and to the "caret" or "hawksbill" (from which comes the tortoiseshell of commerce), prescribes the size at which, and the period during which, they may be killed, and prohibits entirely the exportation or disposal of the famous land tortoises of Aldabra save under such conditions as may seem necessary to the Administrator.

No. 17, a consolidating law dealing with the Post Office, and placing it for the first time on a proper footing. It repeals five previous laws, including a short temporary Ordinance passed in 1900 to enable an internal postal system to be established.

Such a local post was established on the 1st January, 1901, and worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

No. 18, which authorises and regulates inquiries by the Court of Seychelles into shipping casualties and the conduct of ships' officers. In a Colony which has no less than 74 islands included in its Government such a measure was much required, and in December last an inquiry was held, in accordance with its provisions, into the loss of the schooner "Maggie Low," which was wrecked on the South end bank of the island of Providence.

No. 19, providing for the examination in Seychelles of candidates for appointments as sworn land surveyors, and for the method in which surveys should be conducted and substantial landmarks located. The Ordinance also lays down the tariff of fees which sworn land surveyors may claim.

The Fisheries Bill, referred to in paragraph 28 of the Blue Book Report for 1900, became law on the 20th November last as Ordinance No. 21 of 1901. Like Ordinance No. 16 of 1901, which is mentioned above, it was submitted to a representative

committee of experts before being introduced into the Legislative Council, and, in its present form, appears to be well suited to the circumstances of Seychelles. It repeals two Mauritius Ordinances, which, although extended to Seychelles in 1880, had never been published in the Colony. The protection which the Seychelles Fisheries urgently required has now been given without imposing on fishermen undue restrictions.

IV.—EDUCATION.

38. The Education Ordinance of 1900 has not yet had time to improve make its effect fully felt, but the increased attention that is ment in being paid in all schools to the teaching of English is in itself English. an important result.

The Inspector of Schools in his report for last year makes special reference to the progress made in English and to the greater number of English teachers employed in the Roman Catholic grant-aided schools.

39. A complete code for all grant-aided schools has been New code. adopted and published, was brought into operation on the 1st June, 1902, and will be applied to the annual examinations to be held in 1903. Under this code the obligatory subjects to Obligatory secure a result grant are English and arithmetic only, but recita- subjects. tion from the First Standard onwards, geography from the Second Optional Standard, history from the Fifth Standard, French from the subjects. Third Standard, and needlework for girls, from the Third Standard, may be taken up as optional subjects, and success in any one of them, provided passes are obtained in the obligatory subjects, will entitle the school to a grant, of R.1 in respect of each successful pupil.

40. In addition to a Result Grant, every school can earn Grants grants for the payment of teachers' salaries and for attendance. earnable.

41. The new code provides that, in Standards I. to V. inclusive, English the annual examination shall, as much as possible, be conducted language to in English, and exclusively in English in the VIth and higher be used at standards. In the optional French subject the examination is examina- tions. to be conducted, when possible, in French. The above-men- tioned rule as to language for examination purposes will not be strictly enforced until the annual examination of 1904.

42. So far as legislation can secure it, primary education School fees. appears to have been placed on a sound footing. Experience alone can show what alterations in the system may be required, but, if any alteration is to be made, it should be in the direction of making the teachers' salaries and attendance grant dependent on the payment of a moderate school fee which nearly all, if not

all, parents can very well afford. Schools are no longer prohibited as they were under the old code from earning grants in the case of pupils paying school fees.

Regulations
for Victoria
School.

43. But in addition to the grant-in-aid regulations passed last year, suitable rules and curriculum of studies for the Victoria School have been put in force, and the programme of studies for the VIIth and the highest standard at this school is that on which pupils of the Victoria School and of any other school in Seychelles will be examined, if they are candidates for the two annual scholarships of Rs. 600 a year, tenable for three years, either at the Royal College, Mauritius, or at any school in England approved by the Administrator.

Victoria
Infants
School.

44. In connection with the Victoria School, an Infant School was established last year, and when the two schools are removed to the new premises which are being prepared for them, its sphere of usefulness will probably be increased, and in time it will become a valuable feeder to the Victoria School, sending to it children who can read and write English fluently and correctly.

Results of
last examina-
tions of
aided schools.

45. The results of last year's examination of grant-aided schools were not apparently so satisfactory as those of previous years. But the explanation must be sought rather in the higher standard required by the Inspector of Schools than in any falling off in the schools themselves. The highest percentage of passes, namely, 81, was secured by the St. Louis (Roman Catholic) Free School; next comes the Baie Lazare (Roman Catholic) Girls' School, with a percentage of 78; then St. Matthew's, Praslin (Church of England), mixed school, with 77; and then St. Paul's, Victoria (Church of England), mixed school, with 73.

Deficiency in
school
equipment.

46. The Inspector of Schools draws attention to the deficiency in school materials in most schools, and an absence of proper wall-maps. If fees were paid by school children, schools might be suitably equipped, but, as it is, it is difficult for both denominations to meet the heavy expenditure which the maintenance of schools necessarily entails.

Voluntary
contribu-
tions.

47. No return of voluntary contributions for 1901 was made by the managers of Roman Catholic aided schools. The four Church of England schools in Mahé received, as voluntary contributions, Rs. 2,400, and the two Church of England schools in Praslin, Rs. 972. The total expenditure of these six schools is given as Rs. 5,470.67, and they cost more by Rs. 396.67 than the combined amount of grants earned and voluntary contributions received.

Comparative
statement of
schools,
1897-1901.

48. In the following table is given a comparative statement for the last five years, showing the number of Roman Catholic and Church of England grant-aided schools, the number of pupils on the roll and in average attendance, and the amount of grants earned. Similar information under the first three headings is given respecting the Victoria School.

	Roman Catholic.*					Church of England.					Victoria School and Infant School.				
	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
No. of schools	20	21	21	21	23	7	6	6	6	6	1	1	1	1	2
No. of pupils on roll	1,824	1,967	2,129	2,247	2,377	428	376	374	348	343	80	84	106	113	106
No. of pupils in average attendance.	1,345	1,488	1,619	1,717	1,690	303	241	259	241	227	58	62	76	79	82
Grant earned	Rs. 6,343	Rs. 8,371	Rs. 8,460	Rs. 8,451	Rs. 9,573	Rs. 1,556	Rs. 1,628	Rs. 1,549	Rs. 1,548	Rs. 1,702	NOTE.—The cost of these schools is provided for in the annual estimates. The staff consists of a head master, two assistant masters, four pupil teachers, and schoolmistresses for the infant school.				

* These schools include the St. Louis College and Convent paying schools.
x The annual provision for grants to schools was increased in 1898 from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 10,000, and in 1901 from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000.

49. Grants to Primary schools were first given in 1874 under the provisions of Regulation No. 2 of 1873.

50. The following table shows the number of aided schools and the total number of pupils on the roll of those schools as well as of the St. Louis College and the Convent School at three different periods since the year 1874:—

Year.	Number of Aided Schools.	Number of School Children.
1874... ..	4	421
1881... ..	12	903
1891... ..	27	1,905
1901... ..	27	2,826

Creation of Government, now Victoria School.

51. The Church of England Boys' School in Victoria was transferred to the Government in 1891, and was reopened on the 1st March of that year under the name of the Government Un-denominational School. In 1900 its name was changed to the "Victoria School." In the number of school children given in the foregoing table for the years 1891 and 1901 the pupils of this school are included.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Victoria Hospital.

52. The Victoria Hospital, under the directions of the Chief Medical Officer, and with the invaluable assistance of three Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny, of whom one acts as matron in charge, the second as nurse, and the third as housekeeper, continues to give general satisfaction. The services rendered by Sister St. Landri, the matron, during the twenty-six years that she has been attached to the hospital, to which reference has been made in previous Reports, were recognised by her selection in July, 1901, for appointment as an Honorary Serving Sister of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Hospital statistics, 1897-1901.

53. The following table shows the result of the treatment of patients at the hospital from 1897 to 1901:—

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1897 ...	98	37	22	14	10	183
1898 ...	126	40	32	13	19	230
1899 ...	190	54	12	8	9	273
1900 ...	112	58	23	12	14	219
1901 ...	147	53	21	17	9	247

The increase in 1898 and 1899 over 1897 in the number of patients admitted to hospital is due to the treatment there of Indian labourers who had been imported in 1898 for employment on the roads, whilst the Chief Medical Officer explains the increase in 1901 over 1900 by the fact that more women than in previous years sought admission to the hospital, and that many persons suffering from pulmonary diseases were admitted for treatment.

Of the deaths which occurred five were those of aged paupers, and the real death-rate was, therefore, even lower than it was in 1900.

The out-patient department was attended by 592 men and 1,942 women, giving a total of 2,534, or 686 more than in 1900, when the total number of out-patients was 1,848. In 1899, the number of out-patients was 2,172; in 1898, 1,319; and in 1897, 2,099.

54. From the medical returns the principal diseases appear to be, as hitherto, syphilis, rheumatism, dysentery and diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems. 28 patients were treated for injuries sustained through accidents. Only two cases of enteric fever were treated at the hospital. Both were imported from another Colony, and one proved fatal.

The fortunate absence of any case of malarial fever, incurred in Seychelles, has again to be recorded.

55. In addition to the public dispensary at Victoria, there are also dispensaries at Anse Royale, the capital of the South Mahé District, at the island of La Digue, and at Baie St. Anne and Grand Anse, in the island of Praslin. The first mentioned dispensary is under the charge of the Assistant Medical Officer and Justice of the Peace of the South Mahé District, and another dispensary, to be under his charge, will shortly be placed at Anse Boileau on the west of Mahé.

The dispensaries at Praslin and La Digue are under the Assistant Medical Officer and Justice of the Peace for the Praslin District.

It is intended, when circumstances so admit, to establish small hospitals at Anse Royale, and at Baie St. Anne, Praslin.

56. The want of a lunatic asylum, referred to in the Report Proposed for 1900, has not yet been supplied, but the proposal to build one near Victoria has been approved in principle, and will be carried out when other public works, which are now in hand, have been completed. Meanwhile, Seychelles lunatic patients are sent to the asylum in Mauritius. At the end of last year the number of patients under treatment there was 16.

57. The asylum for pauper and criminal lepers is now established at Round Island near Praslin, within two miles of the station of the Assistant Medical Officer; and, on the same

island, but at a considerable distance apart, there is an asylum for paupers who have no friends or relations able or willing to take charge of them.

On the 31st December last there were 7 lepers and 3 paupers on the island.

Savings
Bank,
Victoria.

58. The Government Savings Bank in Victoria was opened on the 5th March, 1894, and the total amount of deposits at the end of that year was Rs. 16,914. The rate of interest is 2 per cent. per annum on deposits up to, but not exceeding, Rs. 3,000.

Branch
Savings
Banks.

59. Branch Savings Banks have been opened at Anse Royale, the capital of the South Mahé District, at Baie St. Anne, Praslin, and at La Digue, but so far the transactions at these branches have been inconsiderable.

Savings
Bank
statistic,
1897 to 1901.

60. The following table shows the business done by the Savings Bank during the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Accounts open on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the Year.	Amount of Deposits on 31st December.
				Ra.
1897 ...	167	46	4	63,624.53
1898 ...	191	40	16	44,417.27
1899 ...	214	47	24	70,605.18
1900 ...	221	35	28	61,492.04
1901 ...	243	52	30	58,761.19

The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the end of last year was less by Rs. 11,794.93 than the amount invested on behalf of the Savings Bank in Victoria and South Australia 3 per cent. stocks, but it is satisfactory to note that more accounts were opened during 1901, and more accounts remained open at the end of the year than at any other previous period.

Want of a
Bank.

61. A bank has not yet, I regret to say, been established in Seychelles. I am still of opinion that the trade is sufficient to justify one being opened, and that, if one were opened and conducted on sound principles, it would prove a success.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police Force. 62. The strength of the Police Force remained the same as in 1900, namely, 60 of all ranks, including an Inspector, a Sergeant-Major, two Sergeants, and four Corporals. The necessity of increasing the force was considered last year, and, to secure more effective patrolling of the country districts and to enable all

police stations to be kept open at night, the force has now been raised to 79 of all ranks, and a sub-Inspector has been appointed and placed in charge of the Police in the Southern part of Mahé. So far the result appears to be satisfactory, but the difficulty in creating a thoroughly efficient Police Force is the limited field of selection for recruits.

63. The following table gives a summary of the criminal and Judicial civil cases during the last five years and their results. The statistics, figures for 1900 and 1901 include cases heard by the Justice of the Peace, Praslin District. 1897 to 1901.

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Cases adjudicated.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.	No. of Stipendiary Court Cases.	No. of Cases in Chambers.
1897 ...	565	556	735	592	135	50	118
1898 ...	557	532	758	628	133	64	154
1899 ...	577	563	764	671	133	61	94
1900 ...	70	860	1,096	931	183	85	80
1901 ...	912	899	1,147	959	187	72	69

597 cases were prosecuted by the Police, of which 248 were for drunkenness as against 200 in 1900. It would seem, therefore, as if drunkenness were on the increase. I am, however, inclined to think that this is not the case, and that the number of persons who habitually give way to intemperance is slightly decreasing. The disease of drunkenness is still widespread in Seychelles, and no great improvement can be looked for until education and example do their work.

64. The natives of Seychelles are essentially a law-abiding people, and serious cases of crime are few. There is no dangerous criminal class, the members of which only refrain from active evil-doing when they are confined within the prison wall, and the prisoner of yesterday often, in fact as a rule, becomes the industrious and well-behaved workman or labourer of to-day. Absence of a dan-criminal class.

65. The prison buildings have not been altered since the Report for 1900 was written, but plans for a new prison on the separate cell system have been approved, and arrangements are being made for beginning the new buildings in 1903, if the current Revenue then admits of the necessary expenditure. Prison.

The improvement in prison discipline has been maintained, and the Superintendent of Prisons records in his annual report that "since the introduction of the Mark System Regulations in March, 1900, the conduct of prisoners has very much improved, and they perform their allotted tasks satisfactorily. It is only

in very rare instances that prisoners do not earn the full amount of marks daily."

Book-binding has now been added to the other prison industries, and a good deal of creditable work done in this branch of trade both for Government Departments and for private persons.

Prison
statistics,
1897-1901.

66. The following table gives a comparative statement for the last five years of the number of persons committed to prison and the daily average of prisoners in prison :—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in Prison.
1897... ..	301	70
1898... ..	279	56
1899... ..	321	50
1900... ..	315	52
1901... ..	276	40

Of the 276 persons committed to prison in 1901, 255 were men and 21 were women, being 2 men and 37 women less than the numbers committed to prison in 1900. Only 92 men and 6 women were committed to prison for purposes of penal imprisonment, the remainder undergoing imprisonment in lieu of payment of fines and costs. Of the daily average of prisoners, 38 were men and 2 were women, and the average was lower by twelve than it was in 1900.

VII.—CENSUS AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Census of
31st May,
1901.

67. The results of the Census taken on the 31st May, 1901, have shown that the actual population of the Seychelles Islands on that date was not so large as the estimated population on the 31st December, 1900.

On the latter date it was estimated that the population amounted to 20,275; but the Census Commissioner, in his report, gives the number on the 31st May, 1901, as 19,237, of whom 9,805 are males and 9,432 are females. These figures are exclusive of 21 persons who were on board two foreign ships in the harbour of Victoria and in the waters of Silhouette Island, respectively.

The miscalculation appears to be due to errors which were committed in the annual reports on vital statistics subsequent to the Census of 1891, and up to and including the Report for 1897, and were partly attributable to want of information as to the number of arrivals and departures in each year, or to incorrect information under these heads. The mistakes have been

corrected so far as was possible, and the figures which are now supplied by the Civil Status Office and the Port Office may be accepted as reliable.

68. The following table gives a corrected statement of the Population population of the Seychelles Islands at intervals of ten years from 1851 to 1901:—
1901 compared.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Increase.
1851	3,625	3,185	6,811	—
1861	3,767	3,719	7,486	678
1871	5,793	5,289	11,082	3,596
1881	7,179	6,902	14,081	2,999
1891	8,302	8,138	16,440	2,359
Census of 5th April. 1901	9,805	9,432	19,237	2,797
Census of 31st May.				

69. It will be seen that, whilst the population has nearly Greatest trebled in the last 50 years, I was in error in stating in my last increase Blue Book Report that the greatest increase had taken place in between the last decade, and that, as a fact, the greatest increase occurred 1861 and 1871. in the ten years between 1861 and 1871.

70. In the following table the results of the Census of 1891 Censuses of and of that of 1901 are compared as regards the 12 largest islands 1891 and of the Seychelles Group. This group contains 36 islands, and 1901 in 12 islands is distinct from the other groups under the Government of compared. Seychelles, which comprise 38 islands in all:—

Island.	Acres.	1891.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
Mahé	35,520	13,351	15,166	1,815	—
Praslin	3,700	1,235	1,621	386	—
Silhouette	4,900	377	370	—	7
La Digue	2,500	866	1,074	208	—
Curieuse	900	35	11	—	24
Félicité	800	42	27	—	15
North	525	51	79	28	—
St. Anne	500	35	65	30	—
Denis	340	31	34	3	—
Cerf	290	51	61	10	—
Frigate	275	61	34	—	27
Bird or Sea Cow	160	7	126	119	—
Total	56,410	16,142	18,668	2,599	73

The above table shows that out of a total population of 19,237, no less than 18,668 were living at the time of the Census on

12 islands only, and that the number of persons living on the other 62 islands did not amount to more than 569.

Nationalities
of
population.

71. In the following table the population is divided by nationalities, and the figures of 1901 are compared with those of 1891:—

Nationality.	1891.	1901.
Africans	1,754	1,158
Abyssinians	—	12
Americans... ..	10	5
Arabians	9	2
Brazilians	—	2
British	14,352	17,698
Chinese	45	98
Dutch	1	—
French	229	187
Germans	4	6
Greek	1	—
Italian	1	—
Japanese	—	1
Malagassies	—	47
Norwegians	—	3
Persians	—	2
Portuguese	28	4
Spaniards	1	2
Swedes	1	1
Swiss	2	5
Turks	2	1
Zanzibaris... ..	—	3
Total	16,440	19,237

The interesting features of the above return are the decrease in the liberated African slave population, due probably to deaths rather than to other causes, no liberated slaves having been introduced into Seychelles for many years; the considerable increase in the British population; the decrease in the French population; the increase in the number of Chinese, who play so important a part in the retail trade of the Colony; and the introduction of natives from Madagascar, who have probably come by way of Mauritius. There is plenty of room and plenty of labour in Seychelles for these immigrants, and it would be fortunate if other natives of Madagascar, now in Mauritius, could be induced to settle here.

British
Indians.

72. In the Census for 1891, the number of British Indians in Seychelles was given as 200. This number had increased at the time of last year's Census to 335, and does not include Indians born in Seychelles or in Mauritius, the latter of whom are estimated by the Census Commissioner to be about 50 in number.

I repeat what I have stated on many occasions, that if the islands under the Seychelles Government are to be fully developed, it is essential that natives of India should be recruited as immigrants to supplement the present insufficient labouring population.

73. Of the British population, which numbers 17,698, no less Natives of T^han 16,563 are natives of Seychelles, giving an increase of Seychelles. 2,924 over the number of persons born in the Seychelles Islands as established by the Census of 1891. It has not been found possible and, as the Census Commissioner points out, "it would certainly have been invidious to classify the natives of Seychelles according to colour." At the outside the white population cannot exceed one fourth of the total population, and many persons put the proportion far lower.

74. The religious denominations of the population in 1891 and 1901 are given in the following table. The term "Protestant" includes Anglicans, Methodist and Presbyterian, whilst the term "Roman Catholic" includes "Catholics" and "Apostolic Catholics." Population classified by religious denominations.

Denomination.	1891.	1901.
Buddhists	43	3
Chinese	not given.	65
Freethinkers	1	2
Greek	1	—
Hindoos	156	389
Jew	1	—
Lutherian Evangelists ...	—	2
Mahometans	73	63
New Church	—	5
Pagans	10	—
Parsees	—	7
Protestants	2,636	2,631
Roman Catholics	13,504	16,038
Shintoists	—	1
No religion	15	25
Not stated... ..	—	6
Total	16,440	19,237

It will be observed that the increase (2,535) in the number of Roman Catholics, and the increase (233) in the number of Hindoos, making a total of 2,767, only fall short by 30 of the total increase in the population of 1901 over the population established by the Census of 1891.

75. There is one other table given in the Census Report which it may be as well to reproduce here, and that is the table showing, under six headings, the occupations and professions of the population. As in the case of the other preceding tables, the

classification of the Census of 1891 is given for purposes of comparison.

		1891.	1901.
Professional	...	241	374
Domestic	...	1,470	2,128
Commercial	...	445	486
Agricultural	...	3,862	3,780
Industrial	...	1,742	974
Indefinite	...	8,680	11,495
Total	..	16,440	19,237

The Census Commissioner has not compared the figures of 1901 with those given in 1891 on account of the unreliability of the previous figures as admitted by the Commissioner of the last Census in his Report, nor do I think that the returns of occupation for 1901 can be accepted as correct. It is incredible that the industrial population, that is those persons who are engaged in some kind of handicraft or industry should have decreased in ten years by no less than 768, and that, out of a total population of 19,237, 11,495 should have no employment. It is true that in the 11,495 are included 500 persons who are returned as independent proprietors or fund holders, 37 prisoners in the Victoria Gaol, and upwards of 100 persons who are suffering from some incurable malady; whilst 46 other persons are accounted for as political prisoners, Government pensioners, etc.; and it is also true that the total includes females who are not employed in any trade, profession, or industry, as well as 2,826 children who are on the roll of different schools, but, after making deductions for the above persons, it must, I think, be concluded that many have allowed themselves to be classified under the heading "unemployed," who, as a matter of fact, are engaged in some definite employment. Poverty in Seychelles, in the sense of the word generally understood, there is almost none, and, if those persons who constitute what is called "the poorer classes" are returned as "unemployed," the probable explanation is that they are principally females who are occupied in looking after household matters in the absence of their husbands, fathers, or brothers, as the case may be, or because they misunderstood the meaning of the word "occupation" or "profession," and were under the impression that if they were engaged in cultivating their own land they had no special "occupation." In a population where the majority can neither read nor write the mistake is not unnatural.

Estimated
population
on 31st
December,
1901.

Birth and
death-rates.

76. The population of Seychelles on the 31st December, 1901, is estimated by the chief officer of the Civil Status as being 19,343, or an increase of 106 on the results of the Census. This increase is made up of 92 males and 14 females.

77. The birth-rate in 1901 was 32·61 per 1,000, and the death-rate 18·77, or practically the same as that of London in 1900.

Owing to the errors made since 1891 in estimating annually the total population, the death-rates per 1,000 for 1900 and previous years require adjustment. Assuming that the population on the 31st December, 1900, was 19,011, as is now estimated by the chief officer of the Civil Status, and not 20,275 as previously given, the death-rate for 1900 was 18.28 instead of 17.05, so that the rate for 1901 was .49 more than the rate for 1900.

78. An unsatisfactory feature of the Vital Statistics of these Infant islands is the high rate of infant mortality, no less than half mortality. the total number of deaths being those of children under five years of age. The Chief Medical Officer attributes this mortality principally to the increase of pulmonary troubles during the year, from which the children among the coloured population especially suffered owing to their wearing insufficient clothing.

79. Notwithstanding an epidemic of dengue fever, which broke out in 1900 and continued in the early part of 1901, and an unusually large number of cases of pleurisy, pneumonia, and bronchitis, Seychelles maintained its reputation as the healthiest possession of the Crown within the Tropics. Healthiness of Seychelles.

At an elevation of from 300 to 400 feet above sea level an ideal climate can be found, and even on the sea coast the climate is only trying for two or three months in the year.

80. The creation, under Ordinance No. 31 of 1900, of a Local Board of Health for the town of Victoria, with executive powers, and with ample funds at its disposal, has been attended with excellent results, and an improvement has taken place in the streets and general appearance of the town. The water supply has been increased; the scavenging and latrine services are now carried out by a contractor, and the town is better lighted. Improvements in town of Victoria, and creation of Local Boards of Health. Local Boards of Health were also created in December last in the islands of Praslin and La Digue, but only entered on their labours on the 1st January.

81. The vaccination results of last year were again unsatisfactory. Vaccination. From January to May the lymph had to be sent to Seychelles by way of Colombo; and, notwithstanding every care taken of it during transport, it generally arrived in bad condition.

From May to September the mail service to Seychelles was interrupted, but from September to the end of the year, during which time the Messageries Maritimes steamers called at Seychelles every month, the lymph arrived in better condition, and the vaccination results consequently improved.

Out of 454 vaccinations the Chief Medical Officer reports that 200 were successful the first time, 96 the second time, and 37 the third time, and that 121 were unsuccessful.

82. The alterations effected in 1900 in the Quarantine laws and regulations worked smoothly and well throughout the year. Quarantine. It having been established that rats are mainly instrumental in spreading plague, necessary precautions have been taken to

prevent the introduction into Seychelles of rats, whilst a crusade against rats, the natives of these islands, has been set on foot by offering 5 cents for each rat's tail brought to a Police Station. From the 17th March, 1900, to the 31st December, 1901, no less than 104,494 rats have been accounted for. The destruction of rats has proved beneficial from an agricultural as well as a sanitary point of view, as cocoa-nut and cacao plantations have in the past suffered much from their depredations.

Climate.

83. The following table gives the rainfall and the maxima and minima shade temperature in Victoria for the last five years:—

Year.	Rainfall.	Maximum shade Temperature.	Minimum shade Temperature.
1897	101·98	88·8	71·8
1898	97·63	82·9	77·4
1899	88·42	87·4	70·0
1900	110·75	88·7	74·1
1901	102·26	88·5	68·4

The year 1901 was cooler throughout than 1900, the mean temperature being 78·48 against 79·58 in 1900. The mean temperature for 1898 was 79·40, and for 1899 78·84. The coolest, driest, and healthiest months of the year are from June to October. February was the wettest month, with a rainfall of 16·00 inches; and August was the driest month with a rainfall of only 1·33 inch. Rain fell on 145 days in 1898, on 162 days in 1899, on 174 days in 1900, and on 162 days in 1901.

Wind.

84. The prevailing directions of the wind are S. and S.E. and N. and N.W. The average force of the wind during each month of 1900 and 1901 is given in the following table:—

Month.	Miles per hour, 1900.	Miles per hour, 1901.
January	7	5·9
February	5·6	6·2
March	5	5·1
April	6·1	4·3
May	5·1	5·8
June	9·4	8·9
July	11·6	9·5
August... ..	13·3	14·2
September	11·6	11·7
October	9·3	7·5
November	7·3	6·3
December	4·7	5·6

The Seychelles Islands, including the Amirantes and Aldabra groups, are all situated outside the hurricane zone, and planters are, therefore, exempt from those losses which are, from time to time, incurred in other colonies whose geographical position is less fortunate.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

85. The increase in the Postal business of 1900, to which attention was called in the Blue Book Report for that year, was, it will be seen from the following comparative statement, maintained last year, and the revenue derived from the Post Office Department increased from Rs. 15,043.85 in 1900 to Rs. 23,381.84 in 1901, and was the largest ever collected. The explanations of the increase are given in paragraph 6 of this Report.

Year	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Letters received	12,655	22,530	28,544	57,831	65,210
Letters sent	13,804	33,000	38,040	39,879	48,649
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., received.	4,033	18,930	47,540	59,379	61,167
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., sent.	560	575	6,810	2,750	9,576
Parcels received	273	333	259	393	390
Parcels sent	460	304	392	422	1,369
Totals	31,785	75,672	121,585	160,654	186,361
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Money Orders issued	36,661	44,959	62,673	95,295	64,302
Money Orders paid	41,225	14,194	22,325	16,315	22,107
Totals	77,886	59,153	84,998	111,610	86,409

That in five years the total number of postal articles received and sent should have increased nearly six times is a noteworthy fact.

86. The increase in the number of parcels sent and the decrease in the value of money orders issued are both due to the unusually large amount of vanilla forwarded by parcel post, vanilla being sent as a cheaper form of remittance than money orders.

Trans-
mission of
Vanilla
by parcel
post.

On insufficient grounds the amount of vanilla to be forwarded by any one person or firm by any particular mail was limited in June, 1898, to ten kilos. This restriction was removed in February, 1901, and although the weight of any packet of vanilla must not exceed five kilos, the number of packets to be sent as

postal parcels by any person is unlimited, subject to the reasonable condition that the parcels are deposited at the Post Office three days before the scheduled date of departure of the mail steamers, so that there may be one clear day for having the parcels packed. Vanilla to the amount of Ks. 5,040.590, the declared value of which was Rs. 110,572.84, was exported by parcel post in 1901.

Inland postal service.

87. In paragraph 87 of the Blue Book Report for 1900, reference was made to the arrangements for an inland postal service, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1901. During last year 12,778 letters and 5,058 newspapers were conveyed through the medium of the inland post, but as 2,505 letters and 1,334 newspapers were either received from abroad or posted for abroad in the country districts, these letters and newspapers are also included in the number of letters and newspapers received and sent which is given in the foregoing table.

The results of the inland postal service in 1901 compare very favourably with those obtained in 1893 and 1894, when an inland postal service was in operation for nine months. Then the total number of letters sent through the local post was only 553, and the service came to an end on the 31st July, 1894.

The cost of the local post in 1901, including the wages of postmen and all incidental charges, and payment for the conveyance of mails to and from Praslin and La Digue, was Rs. 1,629.20 and the revenue only Rs. 728.10, leaving a deficit of Rs. 901.10; but the convenience to persons living in Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue of being able to send letters through a properly organised local post more than counterbalances the loss of revenue which has occurred. The increasing number of letters sent through the local post affords grounds for hoping that the service will soon become self-supporting, and the introduction of an inland money order system, and the registration of letters passing through the local post will help to secure this result.

Mail service.

88. The arrangements with the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, for a monthly mail service from Colombo to Mauritius calling at Seychelles en route and from Mauritius to Aden by way of Seychelles were terminated by the Company on the 4th February, 1901, after exactly one year, but were renewed up to May, 1901, the last mails brought to Seychelles from Colombo arriving by the S.S. "Vadala," on the 17th May.

From the 17th May up to the 20th August, when through the courtesy of the Commander, mails were brought to Seychelles from Mauritius by the Portuguese gunboat "Rio Lima," no European mail reached Seychelles. Every endeavour was made by the Colonial Government to enter into a new agreement with the British India Steam Navigation Company for a suitable mail service, but the annual subsidy of £13,000 asked by the Company for a monthly service between Bombay and Zanzibar,

Seychelles being made a port of call both ways, was beyond the means of the Government, and the negotiations dropped.

Subsequently arrangements were made with the Messageries Maritimes Company that their steamers which leave Marseilles on the 25th of each month, and which call at Aden, Diego Suarez, and Tamatave on their outward voyage to Mauritius, should touch at Seychelles both on the outward and homeward voyages, the Company receiving 2,000 francs for each call and the steamers being exempted from all harbour dues.

The annual rate of payment for this service is Rs. 28,880, and the service may be said to have begun with the arrival at Mahé on the 8th August of the S.S. "Iraouaddy" on her homeward voyage, but mails were not received from England by a steamer of the Company until the arrival of the S.S. "Calédonien" on the 11th September. Since that date the mail service has been performed punctually, and the voyages to and from Marseilles only occupy 18 days.

The service is, however, not convenient for the trade with India, which country sends Seychelles upwards of a third of the latter's imports, and formerly took one-sixth of its imports, and it is to be hoped that steamers of the British India Company will continue to call occasionally at Seychelles.

The steamers of the Imperial German East Africa Company, which proceed from Rangoon to Mombasa *via* Colombo every eight weeks, now call at Seychelles on their outward and homeward voyages to the great advantage of these islands.

89. Through the courtesy of the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company I am able to furnish a comparative table statistics of the total number of cablegrams received and sent for the last five years:—

Year ending 31st March.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Number of cablegrams received and sent.	1,745	1,767	1,967	2,244	2,399

Of the total annual subsidy of £28,000, payable for 20 years by the Imperial Government to the Telegraph Company, under an agreement dated the 29th March, 1893, for the maintenance of telegraphic communication between Seychelles and Mauritius and Seychelles and Zanzibar, Seychelles pays annually £1,000 and Mauritius £7,000, so that the actual amount paid by the Imperial Government is reduced to £20,000.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Demise of
Her Majesty
Queen
Victoria.

90. Of the principal events of the year 1901 there is one which overshadows all others—the passing of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

A nation in mourning for its Sovereign has been seen before; but history shows no precedent for the grief displayed in every part of the globe at the death of the Great White Queen.

And yet mingled with the sorrow of the Empire, which the rest of the world shared, was the proud satisfaction that the work of the Queen for nearly sixty-four years had been well and truly done; and that in welcoming to the throne King Edward VII. and his Gracious Consort, their subjects did so with the deep-rooted confidence that the beneficent influence of the Sovereign would remain unchanged, and that there would be no alteration in the position of Crown and people, which had, during the Victorian Era, tied fast the bonds of mutual confidence, affection, and respect.

Imperial and
Local
Memorials.

91. To the Imperial Memorial in London in loving memory of the late Queen, Seychelles, in common with other Colonies has been permitted to contribute its share, and a local memorial will shortly be erected in the capital of Mahé, to which the Queen gave her name.

Public
works.

92. The year 1901 was an exceptionally busy one for the Public Works Department, several much needed buildings having been erected, and two new water supplies at out-stations having been laid down during the year.

Road work.

93. But the principal work was the continuation of the construction in Mahé of roads, the cost of which was defrayed from the loan of £20,000, and the maintenance and improvement of existing roads. Not only was the programme of roadwork for the year carried out, but additional work was taken in hand, and the road system in Mahé at the end of 1901 showed a very considerable improvement on its condition two years before. The loan will be exhausted this year, and the cost of further road construction must be defrayed from general revenue funds. I estimate that, in order to meet the growing demands for new roads, a further sum of Rs. 100,000 must be expended. But if there is no falling off in the annual revenue, there is no reason why this expenditure should not be incurred, only care should be taken not to attempt too much in any one year.

Exhibition of
September,
1901.

94. One event of local interest deserves special mention in this report. I refer to the first Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition held in Seychelles.

This Exhibition was opened on the 19th September, and remained open for the two following days. The exhibits numbered 224, and included the best specimens of all the products

of Seychelles and objects of interest and handiwork properly classified under various headings. When the proposal to hold an exhibition was first mooted, some persons showed a curious reluctance to take any part in it, but the object of the exhibition having been explained, the reluctance disappeared, exhibits from all parts of Seychelles were forthcoming, and the exhibition attained an unexpected measure of success. It has now been decided to hold in September, 1903, a second exhibition, and the programme of exhibits is being prepared by the Agricultural Board.

95. The future of Seychelles depends on the development of ~~Future~~ its agricultural industries, and the increase of those products ~~prospects of~~ which command a ready and constant sale in the European ~~Seychelles~~ market. To assist in this development is the aim and ambition of the Government. It is also its duty, and in the fulfilment of this duty Administrators and public officers will find full scope for their energies for many years to come.

E. B. SWEET ESCOTT,

Administrator.

Government House,
Seychelles, 12th July, 1902.

ANNEXURE.

REPORT FOR 1901, by CURATOR OF BOTANIC STATION,
SEYCHELLES.

I.—SOIL.

Origin of the
Seychelles
Islands.

1. The Seychelles group is a collection of small granitic islands very different from those of more common madreporic and volcanic origin which are found in their neighbourhood.

It is supposed that they formed part of a vast continent formerly situated between Madagascar, Africa, India, and the Moluccas, to which the English naturalist Sclater has given the name of "Lemuria." This suggestion is based on the fact that many insects and plants in Seychelles belong to the same flora and fauna as those of some East Indian and African countries.

Composition
of rocks.

2. The rocks of the Seychelles Islands are gigantic and extremely varied in their composition, which is principally either granitic or syenitic. Many eruptive rocks of a more recent formation, such as, for example, porphyries, diorites, diabases, melaphyrs, and even dolerites are mixed with the granite. Most of the latter rocks are of finer grain, sometimes darker in colour and resembling basalt.

Formation
of the soil.

3. All these rocks have been decomposed on the spot and transformed into laterites, to which is attached the formation of nearly all the soils of Seychelles. The decomposition of granite has led to the formation of the common red argillaceous soil impregnated with particles of quartz. The decomposition of other

Clayey soils.

rocks deprived of quartz, such as diorites, diabases, &c., has produced uncultivable clayey soils which are, in some cases, good for pottery purposes.

Landslips.

4. As many rocks which do not readily decompose are found above these argillaceous soils, it happens that under the action of rain, which is practically unchecked since the whole country has been deforested, landslips occur.

Many still recall the landslip of 1862 which deposited several acres of land on the beach of Victoria. The same inconsiderate deforestation causes many tons of good soil to be washed down daily to the sea by the rivers, the waters of which remain long discoloured by humus, after the passage of showers.

Transported
soils.

5. These transported soils are, however, exceptional, and it is principally the argillaceous soils above-mentioned with which the planters have to deal. These argillaceous soils, when situated on sloping ground and after being cultivated for some time, soon lose the greater part of their clay and are transformed into gravelly and sandy soils, the subsoil a few inches below the surface remaining clayey. Soils of madreporic origin are sometimes situated at the foot of the granitic islands and contain guano deposits. These soils are so placed that they receive a great part of the clay washed down from the mountains, with the result that a special soil is formed, very fertile, containing

Sandy soils.

Madreporic
soils.

lime and sand originating from coral, phosphates and nitrogen from the guano, and clay from the granitic boulders of easy decomposition.

6. Sometimes the madreporic sands are deposited by the sea ^{Marshy} at the mouths of rivers which, in their turn, carry down the ^{lands} soil of the highlands. Deposits are formed in opposite directions, the course of the river is deflected, and marshy lands are formed, madreporic on one side, granitic on the other.

7. A few analyses have been made of most of these different ^{Composition} classes of soils. They are as follows:— ^{of the}
^{different}
^{soils.}

A. MECHANICAL ANALYSIS.

		1. Air dried soil.						
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Fine soil	...	51.0	55.7	68.6	56.7	65.7	60.2	64.2
Gravel	...	49.0	44.8	31.4	43.3	34.3	39.8	35.8
		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
		2. Air dried soil 0/0—gravel removed.						
Moisture	...	6.10	9.25	18.92	9.50	8.88	8.17	10.24
Coarse sand	...	60.80	48.62	47.99	58.40	46.84	50.56	41.89
Fine sand	...	20.65	21.36	26.40	21.76	19.72	31.58	30.88
Clay	...	12.95	20.77	11.69	10.85	25.11	9.74	18.04
Humus	...	0.82	0.00	0.88	0.20	0.00	0.58	0.00

B. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE AIR DRIED SOIL 0/0—GRAVEL REMOVED.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Nitrogen	0.184	0.092	0.226	0.094	0.060	0.144	0.077
Phosphoric acid	0.108	0.217	0.082	0.082	0.085	0.080	0.064
Lime	0.140	0.000	0.025	0.025	0.084	0.051	0.088
Magnesia	0.030	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.014	0.000
Potash	0.024	0.051	0.050	0.015	0.021	0.085	0.041
Ferric Oxide and Alumina	14.500	16.850	11.900	9.450	16.250	18.350	6.400
Sulphuric acid	0.090	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

5 Soil No. 8 is the surface soil of a depression of ground placed in the centre of North Island. The following is the result of its analysis made by Mr. Boname:

Specific gravity	...	...	...	...	...	0.791.
A. Mechanical Analysis						
Air dried soil.						
Fine soil	...	...	...	...	...	94.0
Gravel and coarse organic matter	...	...	...	...	...	6.0
						100.0
B. Chemical Analysis of fine soil.						
Nitrogen	0.45
Phosphoric acid	14.80
Lime...	15.50
Ferric Oxide and alumina	8.90
Potash	0.06

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D

With the exception of soil No. 8, which is an ideal garden soil, all the others have been collected at the Botanic Station. Nos. 1, 3, 4, and 6 are surface soils, and Nos. 2, 5, and 7 are subsoils taken 6 inches beneath the surface.

Absence of potash.

Potash is not present in sufficient quantity in these soils, although some of them are of an argillaceous nature. This deficiency is, in my opinion, due to the bad methods followed by native planters in the cultivation of ground provisions. Whenever the natives start a plantation they burn all the weeds and rubbish on the ground selected, and as this process is repeated every year some of the potassium salts are solubilised and washed out of the soil by the rains.

Absence of lime and phosphoric acid.

Lime and phosphoric acid are also wanting in these soils as in all soils of granitic origin. It is wonderful to think that nature has placed very near them, and sometimes above them, abundant supplies of guano which are turned into heavy masses of lime and phosphoric acid by the action of rain.

Utilization of poor soils.

8. What nature has done may serve as a guide to the planters of Seychelles for the cultivation of their land. With the aid of some potassium salts (which are wanting in the guano deposits) and the organic matter supplied by cattle, or, perhaps, for the present, by green crop manures, the granitic sands of this colony can be improved into cultivable soils.

Qualities of sandy soils.

9. Sandy soils can easily stand the introduction of any extra-neous fertilising agent. It is this characteristic which lends them their great adaptability for cultivation. But on the other hand in the tropics where moisture, warmth and rain are excessive (as is the case in Seychelles) the drawback to sandy soils in cultivation is to be found in their being sometimes overheated, in their being deprived of their active constituents by heavy showers, or in the ready growth of parasitic fungi, which find an easy prey in the roots of delicate plants. Trees and hardy plants, on the contrary, being far less readily affected by fungi, rain or warmth, will thrive abundantly in the above-named soils, provided they are properly manured.

II.—CLIMATE.

Weather observations.

10. The meteorological returns registered at the Port Office, which is situated at the end of a pier about 200 yards long, show that the climate of Victoria is not so moist and warm as is generally believed. There are many months which can be considered as dry months. The relative humidity, whilst never low, is far from being excessive, and the average temperature in the shade in any month seldom exceeds 86. As a rule, however, the oscillations of the barometer, thermometer, hygrometer and pluviometer are not great from one month to another or from one year to another. This regularity in the climatic manifestations exerts a beneficial influence on vegetation.

Hardly anywhere in the tropics is there a country of a more refreshingly green aspect than that of Seychelles, and it is this luxuriance of vegetation which generally leads travellers to consider these islands as a veritable paradise. As regards climate the impressions of travellers are, of course correct enough, but we have just seen how many poor soils exist here. It is a pity that the influence on vegetation of such a good climate is not supplemented by a soil of good chemical composition.

Formerly when the soils of Seychelles were not yet exhausted by improper methods of cultivation and by inconsiderate deforestation, agricultural enterprises must have been very successful.

11. Although the climatic observations are very similar from one month to another all the year round, there are many sudden changes of temperature and moisture on the same day brought about by heavy showers of rain and by alterations in the direction of the wind. These sudden changes have also an influence on the growth of plants, and it would not be without interest to measure them properly by means of self-registering instruments. Sudden changes of weather.

12. A rainfall of about 100 inches per annum is not really excessive, for there are many other places in the tropics where the rainfall is heavier. None the less many people imagine that it is useless to manure plants on account of the fertilising agents being washed away soon after their application. In some cases this will, of course, occur, but there is hardly any place in the tropics in which the same thing does not happen, especially in localities situated within the zone of hurricanes and cyclones. I see no reason why high manuring should not be adopted in Seychelles where tree planting forms the ordinary cultivation, provided some leguminous plants be allowed to grow between the trees to form a regular mulching of the soil, and provided also that carefully graded contour drains be built so as to prevent loss of soil. The influence of rainfall on cultivation.

Parasitic diseases and unequal crops are frequent when fertilization is not carried on properly. Manuring is now based on well-known laws, and every planter must bear in mind the most important of them all which states that "if the minimum required by a plant of any constituent be not obtainable in the soil, all others are in vain and the plant cannot be grown."

III.—AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

13. With regard to the manuring of the soil, it is very fortunate that, in a granitic country like Seychelles, guano deposits are found in many of its islands. This guano constitutes at the same time a mineral wealth of the Colony. The deposits are almost invariably ancient, and guano beds are in process of formation only in distant islands where immense flocks of birds are Manures.
a. Guano.

still to be found. On many islands the guano is found in dusty layers on the surface of the soil. This surface guano is dark in colour, especially when it is moist. There are numerous tints, which vary between yellowish brown and reddish black. The lighter-coloured guanos are richer in phosphoric acid, and the dark ones are full of organic matters which increase the percentage of nitrogen. All this surface guano is now more or less mixed with vegetable decay.

Under the action of rain, and in presence of the carbonic acid of the atmosphere, the phosphates of lime are dissolved and sink through into the soil, displacing the carbonates of lime where the island is madreporic, thus forming a second layer of mineral guano, which is generally lighter in colour, and the richness of which in phosphoric acid reaches, and even exceeds, that of the surface guano. Where the island is granitic, and where clay is mixed with the guano deposits, the phosphates of lime in a soluble state take the place of the silicate of alumina, and a phosphate of alumina is formed. Sometimes the transformation of phosphate of lime into phosphate of alumina is complete, and no molecule of phosphate of lime remains undecomposed.

Even the granitic rocks which are found in the sub-soil of some islands are attacked by the solution of phosphate of lime; and when the surface of these rocks is analysed to an inch or more in depth it is found that all the phosphate of lime has penetrated and transformed the rock which sometimes contains as much as 25 per cent. of phosphate of alumina.

All these different phosphates originating from the guano deposits are found in immense quantities, which I estimate as over several hundreds of thousands of tons. On the same island very different kinds of guano deposits are found, and scientific investigations are rendered necessary when the extraction of guano is started. I have analysed on the same island the following deposits:—

Water.	Organic matters.	Mineral matters.	Phosphoric acid.	Nitrogen.
1. 4.42 ...	16.50	84.10	2.8	0.6
2. 3.18 ...	7.54	89.30	6.1	0.4
3. 16.60 ...	56.42	26.98	6.1	2.9
4. 3.26 ...	6.36	90.33	6.6	0.4
5. 3.92 ...	11.10	85.10	8.1	0.6
6. 5.60 ...	9.58	84.80	8.7	0.5
7. 6.18 ...	9.90	83.92	16.2	0.4
8. 6.08 ...	4.20	89.72	17.8	0.3
9. 7.56 ...	5.64	86.80	19.0	0.4
10. 7.54 ...	12.14	80.32	19.7	0.7
11. 7.36 ...	10.98	81.66	21.7	0.5
12. 6.92 ...	11.00	82.10	21.9	0.5
13. 10.46 ...	11.06	78.48	28.0	0.7
14. 12.56 ...	9.30	78.14	27.4	0.4
15. 10.16 ...	13.06	76.78	28.0	0.7

Some of the above-mentioned guanos are exported to Mauritius, South Africa, and Europe, and, as the phosphoric acid they contain is very soluble in citrate of ammonia, they are much appreciated everywhere. When they contain less than 20 per cent. of phosphoric acid they are very seldom exported on account of their not being able to bear the cost of freight, as the price they fetch depends on the quantity of phosphates they contain. These poor guanos remaining in Seychelles will always form an important reserve for the agricultural development of the Colony.

14. Another source of manure is to be found in the deposits of seaweed which are washed up in some places during the N.W. monsoon and in others during the S.E. monsoon. The component parts of these weeds very nearly approach those of good farm manure, but with a greater percentage of potash, and it is well known what wonderful effects they produce in the cultivation of granitic countries like the coast of Brittany in France.

15. It is rather surprising that, notwithstanding a good climate and so many sources of manure, agriculture in Seychelles seems to be in a backward state. This is due no doubt to absence of capital and to the abnormally high rate of interest at which alone the planter is able to secure advances. If means could be adopted of obtaining capital at reasonable rates to help the planters, the present industries of the island would, in a short time be extended, whilst others would be established.

16. Again, owing partly to absence of capital, labour is very scarce in Seychelles. Many labourers have been employed by the poorer proprietors as "metayers" and the result is that it is now very difficult to rely on the former labourers, who, having become half proprietors, naturally look askance at the less lucrative hire system.

The labourer of Seychelles is a negro of fine physique, and it is a pity to see him avoiding situations for which he is admirably fitted.

The necessity of importing labourers is now becoming urgent, and the only countries from which reliable immigrants can be obtained are India and Ceylon.

17. A fully representative committee was appointed at the end of 1900 to inquire into the question of the scarcity of labour, but no practical solution of the question has so far been arrived at, as planters are unwilling to import labourers unless the entire cost of their introduction is borne by the Government.

IV.—VEGETABLE RESOURCES.

18. Both from a climatic and from an economic point of view, the cultivation of trees and hardy plants should be preferred to that of other plants. Except in the numerous islands where

guano deposits are to be found, the cultivation, with a view to exportation, of cereals and pulse such as maize, rice, yams, beans, dholl, lentils and ground nuts should not be recommended. These plants require a great amount of cultural treatment and food in the short time of their growth, and, unless these requirements are satisfied, the crops are always inferior.

Fortunately, owing to the absence of cyclones in Seychelles, it is easy to select those trees and hardy plants which are suitable to its soil and climate.

At present vanilla and cocoanuts are cultivated for exportation. The cultivation of cocoa, cloves, and coffee has been almost entirely abandoned, after having succeeded for some time. To this list of plants we may add those which deserve a good place next to them if new industries are to be started in Seychelles.

(A.)—FOODSTUFFS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Cassava and sweet potatoes. | 19. Cassava (<i>Manihot utilissima</i>) and Sweet Potatoes (<i>Convolvulus Batatas</i>) are grown by the natives, and constitute together with bread fruit the basis of their food. The yield per acre is very low, and, as the natives generally set fire to the hillsides before planting, the cultivation of these two plants may be considered to be very exhausting and the principal cause of the soil being carried off towards the sea. Potatoes do not grow well. Near the sea they are inclined to become "shade trees," and the soil being over-heated the tubers germinate before reaching a proper size. They grow better on the hills especially under screens. |
| Potatoes.
<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> . | |
| Jerusalem artichoke.
<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i> .
Yams.
<i>Dioscorea</i> .
<i>Tuberosus coleus</i> . | Experiments have been made with the Jerusalem artichoke at the Station, and the results are very promising.
Many yams grow wild in Seychelles attaining enormous dimensions. They do not seem to be generally esteemed as a dish.
<i>Tuberosus coleus</i> should be tried. This plant, which is a native of Abyssinia, has been called the African potato, and is much preferred by Europeans to the sweet potato and Jerusalem artichoke. |
| Yam bean.
<i>Dolichos tuberosus</i> .
<i>Arracacha esculenta</i> . | Many dolichos are thriving in Mahé. The yam bean (<i>dolichos tuberosus</i>) yielding an edible root would succeed if cultivated. The beans are also edible. The arracacha are umbelliferae resembling the common parsnip, and would grow well on the highlands. |
| <i>Vandzeia subterranea</i> . | The Madagascar ground-nut is extensively cultivated and much appreciated by the natives. It produces a bean very nourishing to men and to animals. |
| Sago palm.
<i>Sagus Rumphii</i> . | The sago palm would be successful if cultivated on these islands where many palm trees are already established. |

Arrowroot grows very well and is much utilised locally. If Arrowroot. exportation is attempted for this product it should not be for- *Maranta* gotten that pure water, cleanliness and great care in its prepara- *Arundinacea*. tion are essential.

(B.)—SPICES.

20. A species of this plant grows wild in Seychelles—Vanilla *Vanilla* *Phalaenopsis*. It can be seen everywhere from the seashore to *Vanilla planifolia*. the summits of the mountains thriving abundantly and producing its very handsome flower, which is much admired by visitors. It is strange that the presence of this wild plant did not induce the planters of this Colony to start, at an earlier date, the cultivation of vanilla, which was introduced from Mauritius only about 30 years ago. Many planters, at the head of whom was Brother Lucien of the Roman Catholic Mission, introduced great improvements in the cultivation of vanilla in Seychelles, and the well-known system of pruning, described by Delteil in Bourbon, has been everywhere adopted without injuring the vines.

Plantations are now grown on separate props, and about 1,500 vines go to an acre. Planting in rows has been abandoned, as disease is easily communicated from one vine to another when this method is adopted. The vanilla disease is usually sporadic and intermittent in its character, and the numerous fungi which cause it are saprophytic rather than parasitic. They are parasites only when certain climatic conditions, hitherto not well defined, occur. Vanilla is not manured in Seychelles, but it is desirable that an experiment should be made here where this valuable orchid has found favourable conditions of growth rarely met with on the same scale in other Colonies.

As regards the manuring of orchids, however, the European orchid growers are by no means decided, although many experiments have been made lately by Messrs. Romain, Truffaut, and others which go to show that these plants grow much better when manured by weak solutions of fertilisers, and often suffer from want of the necessary mineral constituents in the soil. Mr. Grandeau has advised the manuring of vanilla and has suggested the following type of manure for an acre:—

Slag	...	...	...	...	400 kilos.
Calcareous sands	...	...	...	...	800 kilos.
Chloride of potassium	...	...	...	...	200 kilos.
Nitrate of soda	...	...	...	...	100 kilos.

It is noticeable that vanilla growing on Liberian coffee trees which have been previously manured seems to be more luxuriant than that growing on other soils, and that in some islands where deposits of guano are found this orchid reaches dimensions elsewhere unknown. This shows that like all plants vanilla may be subjected with profit to some good method of manuring. An experimental plantation on the hills, where cultivation on tripods

can be undertaken, along with cultivation on props, would be of great interest to the planters. Cultivation on tripods is possible only when trees for shade are not absolutely necessary, and experiments in manuring vanilla could then be carried out without the necessity of taking into account the part of the manure absorbed by the props.

The curing of vanilla has been much improved in Seychelles, and at the Agricultural Exhibition of September, 1901, there were samples of vanilla of the very finest quality.

Cacao.
Theobroma
cacao.

21. Only about 8,000 kilos. of cacao are now annually exported from Seychelles to Europe. Nearly all the plantations of cacao have been neglected for vanilla, which the Seychelles planter finds easier to work, and, as a rule, more profitable. This sacrifice of all other products for vanilla proved successful so long as vanilla was only grown in comparatively few places; but, at the present time when vanilla, the consumption of which is, and must always be, limited, is grown with success in many parts of the world, a return to the cultivation of cacao, the consumption of which is rapidly increasing, is desirable.

Cacao is successfully cultivated only in those parts of the tropics where the rainfall reaches 100 inches a year, and where the annual mean temperature is about 80. Those colonies which possess these climatic conditions, and Seychelles is one of their number, will always have the monopoly of this industry.

Cacao is in great demand in Europe and its price on the market is at the present time so high that the margin of profit for planters is very high. Many colonies have applied to the Seychelles Botanic Station during the last twelve months to be supplied with good pods for establishing plantations, and these colonies will soon become competitors on the European market. In Seychelles, however, plantations have been in existence for a long time and many estates are provided with the remains of very fine groves. Planters who have continued the cultivation of this tree derive material profit from it.

Competition with other colonies which are only starting plantations is then easy, owing to the natural resources of this Colony, and especially to its division into small islands where measures can be adopted to circumscribe diseases or to prevent their introduction. Planters should restore the old and neglected cacao trees by carefully pruning them after the crop, by removing deadwood, mosses, and parasitic plants, and by properly draining and forking the soil.

Manuring must also never be lost sight of, for, if many plantations have still now full-bearing trees with a great many pods ripening at the same time, there are other plantations which are less promising and which could be manured with profit.

The variety which is cultivated is the Forastero cacao. The Criollo variety is not to be found on any of the estates which I have been able to visit. The Seychelles cacao is good and was

formerly much appreciated by a chemist who had a chocolate manufactory at Réunion. The objection is sometimes raised in Seychelles that cacao cultivation is impossible on account of the destruction of the pods by rats. It is true that these animals do much harm, but their ravages are not confined to Seychelles. There are other Colonies which, in addition to the destruction of the pods by rats, have to bear the attacks of other animals fond of cacao such as squirrels and parrots, and of the dreadful disease called the cacao canker.

Very little, in my opinion, is done in this Colony to prevent rats from injuring cacao trees. Ordinary poisons such as arsenic, phosphorus, strychnine, mercuric chloride, and "Rough on Rats" will do in most cases, and especially if tins in the form of a cone are attached to the trunks of the trees, and each estate is provided with a good rat-catcher, who might be paid his wages out of the 5 cents which the Government offers for each rat's tail.

I do not think the day is far distant when a bacterial disease will be communicated to rats in the tropics in the form of a poison similar to that of Mr. Danyesz which has succeeded so well in Europe.

22. Pepper grows wild in Seychelles and deserves a good place among the minor agricultural products. Owing to its geographical situation this Colony should be able to compete with the products of Sumatra, Java, Cochin China, and the Moluccas. Pepper
Piper
nigrum.

This plant should always be propagated from cuttings, as seedlings are difficult to grow. Care must be taken in choosing the extremities of the vines as cuttings, and they should be marked with a knife so as to prevent the bad end ever being placed in the soil. I have seen many unsuccessful attempts at propagation of pepper owing to the absence of this precaution. When the vines have reached six feet long they should be tied to supporting trees and pruned once a year to the same height.

23. There are a few nutmeg trees in Mahé. Some of them growing in the grounds of Government House in a poor soil have been introduced from Mauritius. This plant is well adapted to the climate and soil of the Colony where the absence of cyclones makes good returns certain. In the West Indies nutmegs are sometimes destroyed by hurricanes, and still this plant is extensively cultivated there. Nutmeg.
Myristica
fragrans.

The plants at Government House bear nuts small in size and bad in shape, but steps have already been taken at the Botanic Station to provide planters with better varieties coming from the East Indies. As much as from £30 to £40 can be obtained sometimes from an acre of nutmegs.

24. Clove trees were introduced into Seychelles in 1771 from the Moluccas through care of Poivre. Formerly there were immense plantations of this tree, and I have been told that those Cloves.
Caryophyllus
aromatica.

planted close to Victoria were felled comparatively recently to serve as fuel in a cocoanut fibre factory.

At the present time cloves are not really cultivated, and even the existing crops on the few trees which are still to be met with on nearly all estates are not always gathered.

Not more than from two to three thousand kilos. are exported annually to Mauritius and Europe.

The soil of Seychelles, being of an argillaceous nature and derived from laterites, is most suitable to clove plantations, but in many localities this soil, being deprived of organic matter, must be manured so as to ensure the regular bearing of the trees.

At the Agricultural Exhibition referred to above, there were many good samples of the Seychelles cloves, which proved that the curing of this spice is very well understood. There is such a great difference in price between good and bad cloves that many Colonies such as Penang send their produce to the European market in wood boxes and fetch four times the price which is obtained by other clove-producing countries.

Cardamom.
Elettaria
carda-
momum.

25. This spice has been already tried in Seychelles with success. There are two varieties of cardamom, the Malabar and the Mysore. The Mysore variety is most productive at a higher elevation. A fine but loamy soil and a certain amount of shade are essential for this plant. The banks of the numerous rivulets found in granitic countries are most suitable for it. It can be propagated from bulbs or seeds. A crop is obtained in three years' time, but full bearing commences at five years; 300 lbs. can be obtained in the fifth year. Good unsplit fruits realise in Europe 7s. to 9s. per lb. In India split ones are sold at from 12 annas to R. 1.

Chillies.
Capsicum
minimum.

26. Chillies grow wild in some parts of the Archipelago. I remember having seen at Flat Island a few acres of land covered with them and producing fruits of great pungency. The presence of guano on that Island renders the cultivation of chillies easy, and I think that a marketable produce can be obtained.

Many other parts of Seychelles are suitable for the cultivation of chillies which calls for no special skill or trouble. The pods are simply picked when ripe, sun-dried, and packed in vacoa bags. Chillies, besides their use as spice, are required for medicinal purposes, especially those of great pungency.

(C.)—DRUGS AND NARCOTICS.

Coffee.
Coffea.

27. There are many localities in Seychelles most suitable for the cultivation of Arabian coffee, especially those valleys situated at about 1,000 feet above sea level where the effects of the leaf disease are never serious. These valleys are sometimes planted with cocoanut trees, although on such sites this palm will never prove as remunerative as coffee.

Liberian coffee is found also on many estates thriving abundantly. Its produce is more or less unsold. It would have a better sale if it were prepared in the cracked state, that is in a thoroughly dry condition after being directly gathered from the trees, and then forwarded to a central factory provided with the necessary pulping and curing materials.

There are many other coffee trees which could be introduced into Seychelles for cultivation. Among such may be mentioned:

1. The improved varieties of Java.
2. The coffee *stenophylla*.
3. Hybrids (Arabica and Liberian.)

The hybrid coffee especially, which resists the leaf disease, has the advantage of producing berries little if at all inferior to Arabian coffee.

Each of these new coffees could be grafted on Liberian coffees already established on estates where very fine plantations of the latter can be seen growing free from all disease.

28. Tobacco is a very good minor product, which can be ex-ported to Mauritius where it is already more appreciated than the locally-grown tobacco. *Nicotiana tabacum.*

This plant likes sandy soils and a moist and warm climate. Its cultivation should be carried on in all parts of Seychelles where the supply of humus in the soil is sufficient.

A variety of Cuban tobacco with a coarse leaf has already been introduced and this variety is well adapted for cultivation during the rainy season. Sometimes the Seychelles tobacco is very strong from want of oxidation of the nicotine. Experiments should be tried in submitting this strong tobacco to a very high pressure by which the juice is brought from the interior of the cells to the surface. The tobacco is then taken out, dried, and the juice is re-absorbed. This process is repeated daily for ten consecutive days.

29. Cinchona would grow on the heights of Seychelles. Improved varieties should be obtained from the East Indies where the cultivation of this plant has been carried on scientifically for a long time. *Cinchona.*

30. Kola plants should be planted at low elevations, not above 1,000 feet. Cacao soils are suitable for growing kola, which is allied to the former by botanical and physiological affinities. A flourishing specimen of kola can be seen at Anse Etoile about three miles from Victoria. *Kola.*

This plant in full bearing, *i.e.*, from its 5th to 10th year, and with attention, can produce 150 lbs. of nuts a year, and the nuts are sometimes sold at 1s. per lb. To cure the nuts for export they only require to be taken out of the pods and subjected to careful drying until they are quite firm and hard.

The small quantity of tannin contained in them as compared with tea and coffee may be an advantage from a dietetic point of view as also the absence of fat (which has to be removed from cacao during the process of manufacture).

These properties will probably cause the consumption of kola to increase.

Erythroxylum coca.

31. There are two varieties of coca. One can be cultivated on a small scale on the heights of Seychelles, the other can be grown near the sea. Many plants of the same family are indigenous to Seychelles. They require soils rich in humus and they should be exposed to the sun. The leaves are used in the preparation of cocaine and wines with stimulating properties. In tea very young leaves are picked; in coca, on the contrary, the largest and most matured leaves are gathered and dried in the shade. Dried leaves are sold in Europe at about 8*l.* per lb.

Cubeb.
Piper cubeba.

32. The cultivation of cubeb is similar to that of pepper. The berries are gathered before they are quite ripe and dried with the stalk attached. The consumption of this product has increased in recent years.

Cephaelis.
Ipecacuanha.

33. Ipecacuanha is a perennial plant which can be propagated easily and which thrives in moist and warm countries; its produce is easily sold.

Cinnamomum camphora.

34. Camphor is now used industrially for converting collodion cotton into celluloid. The tree is very ornamental and the wood very valuable for cabinet work. Sandy soils with a good percentage of lime and potash are necessary for the successful cultivation of this plant which is grown in hedges or along roads.

Cinnamomum.

35. Cinnamon was introduced long ago into Seychelles and it is now utilised as props for vanilla vines. According to Mr. Horne, the late Director of Forests and Gardens, Mauritius, it is not the good variety which is cultivated in India and Ceylon, and the produce is of little value.

(D.)—OIL SEEDS.

Cocoanut.
Cocos mucifera.

36. The cocoanut which is a South American palm is thriving in Seychelles. The geographical situation of the Colony will always prove of great advantage to the cultivation of this tree, the various products of which are more and more easily sold in Europe.

The cocoanut trees in many islands of the Archipelago yield only 36 nuts per tree, and about 80 or 90 trees go to an acre. The produce per acre is thus hardly worth more than Rs. 48. counting the value of the nuts at 2 cents each. This result can be improved, for in some colonies as many as 60 nuts are obtained per tree per annum.

In Seychelles cocoanuts are frequently planted on unsuitable soils, for example, on clayey soils sometimes situated on the summits of mountains where no humus is to be found. The best soil for this tree is a sandy soil rich in humus. When such a soil is not to be found, an artificial one must be made by having recourse to manures.

A formula which can be tried on sandy soils is the following :

Farm manure	...	...	25 per cent.
Sea weed	...	...	50 per cent.
Seychelles guano	...	...	25 per cent.

In clayey soils lime, salt, and sand must also be employed as manure.

Another well-known practice which is much neglected here in planting nuts is the establishment of a nursery where properly selected nuts should be sown, and from which only the most promising plants should be transplanted to the groves. At present no selection is made and the plantations produce a series of very different nuts which causes the average yield per acre to sink.

37. A butter is now made out of cocoanut oil and has the following composition as compared with milk butter:—

—		Cocoanut butter.	Milk butter.
Casein ...	...	—	0.72
Fat ...	...	99.97	84.90
Water ...	...	0.02	14.22
Ash ...	...	0.01	0.16

The degree of saponification of this butter is very high (258.5), and unlike all other animal and vegetable fats its adulteration is impossible.

Cocoanut butter has also been proved to be free from germs and also to be a very unfavourable nutrient medium for micro-organisms.

38. Desiccated cocoanut is also now manufactured on a large scale in India and Ceylon, and is sold in England and Germany for confectionery purposes.

39. If labour becomes cheaper at some future date coir for brush and mat making could be started in this Colony.

40. Seychelles, unlike many other colonies, does not export coprah. Oil is made locally and about 50 per cent. is extracted from dried coprah. The poonac is used locally as fodder for animals.

The following are analyses of Seychelles coprah and poonac which have been recently made by Mr. Boname in Mauritius:—

	Coprah.				Poonac derived from	
	Fermented.		White.		Fermented coprah.	White coprah.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Water	6.04	6.26	5.58	8.42	14.12	15.10
Ash	1.50	1.52	1.52	1.54	3.90	3.90
Cellulose	4.62	5.14	7.56	8.00	6.04	8.46
Oil	65.30	65.90	63.80	62.90	22.20	25.50
Non-nitrogenous matter ...	12.98	12.12	10.92	11.02	34.74	30.54
Nitrogenous matter ...	9.56	9.06	7.62	8.12	19.00	16.30
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Nitrogen	1.53	1.45	1.22	1.30	3.04	2.64

The percentage of oil contained in the coprah and poonac does not allow an extraction of much above 50 per cent. Generally the planters are under the impression that they extract $4\frac{1}{2}$ velt of oil from every 100 pounds of coprah. A velt weighing 6.731 kilos., the extraction they are supposed to obtain is therefore 61.57 per cent. This figure is certainly an exaggeration, and is in fact never obtained. Coprah does not contain more than 66 per cent. of oil, and poonac contains between 22 and 25 per cent.

Extracting 50 per cent. of oil (which is generally sold in Mahé for about R. 1.60 the velt or ten bottles), and supposing that coprah yields above one third of its weight in poonac, the money produced from 100 pounds of coprah can be stated as follows:—

4 velt (maximum) at R. 1.60 ...	...	Rs. 6.40
40 lbs. poonac at Rs. 4 per cent. ...	...	R. 1.60
		<hr/> Rs. 8.00

At Zanzibar it appears that 100 lbs. of dried coprah are sold at Rs. 11 for exportation.

If part of the coprah was exported from Seychelles, I think that many planters would obtain a very fair return.

A certain quantity of oil should always be made locally for the soap industry which is flourishing, and the poonac derived from the locally-manufactured coprah should be kept as food for animals.

41. Poonac is of great value as fodder. The two above Poonac analyses show that it contains:—

—	1.	2.
Nitrogenous matters ...	19.00	16.30
Non-nitrogenous and fat	56.94	56.04
With a nutrient ratio ...	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$

The quantity of poonac produced in the island is not large enough to export it regularly to Mauritius where its high value as fodder would be much appreciated in sugar estates on which the animals often suffer from want of proper food.

42. The palm oil tree is very well adapted to the soil and climate of Seychelles. It should be planted on alluvial soils or marshy ground near the sea. Propagation must be made from offshoots that appear at the base of the trees. The fruit takes from 4 to 5 months to develop. The oil is extracted both from the pericarp of the fruit and from the kernel. The kernels are dried also in the sun and cracked between stones for export as palm kernels. *Elais guineensis.*

Although the oil of this palm is sold at a cheaper rate than the cocoanut oil, the yield per acre in suitable localities is greater and more than compensates the planter for the difference of price.

43. The ground-nut grows very well, and should be cultivated in those sandy islands rich in guano deposits where all cultural operations could be conducted by instruments and machines. *Ground-nut. Arachis hypogea.*

There are wheel hoes now manufactured in America which can do the work of half a dozen labourers working in the ordinary way.

Ground-nut oil is in great demand and constitutes an immense source of profit for the West African planters.

44. The castor oil plant grows wild. The seeds contain an oil which is sometimes extracted by the planters for their own use. *Castor oil. Ricinus communis*

45. A valuable oil can be extracted from the seeds of the Takamaka, a very handsome timber tree. It should be in great demand if manufactured in sufficient quantity. It has numerous medicinal uses. The following is an analysis made by Mr. Boname of the kernels of seeds gathered at Curieuse Island:— *Takamaka, Calophyllum or Inophyllum.*

Water	...	...	...	32.80
Oil	...	...	...	41.40
Organic and mineral matter	...	...	...	25.80
				100.00

46. Many specimens of the candle-nut tree are found all over the islands. *Candle-nut tree. Aleurites triloba.*

- Gingely oil.** 47. The gingely oil plant should be grown in Seychelles, as its seeds produce an oil which is employed for adulterating almond and olive oil, and the bye products of its manufacture are valuable as fodder or manure.

Tesamum medicum.

(E.)—DYEING AND TANNING MATERIALS.

- Mangrove.** 48. This tree is common in Seychelles. The bark contains nearly 20 per cent. of tannin. In Jamaica it is mixed with the leaves of divi-divi for use in tanneries.

Rhizophorus.

- Divi-Divi** 49. A few plants of the divi-divi can be obtained at the Botanic Station. The pods are in great demand for tanning purposes.

Casalpinia pulcherrima.

- Canaigre.** 50. The roots of the Canaigre contain nearly 35 per cent. of a tannin which has been found to more closely resemble gambier in its action than any other tanning material.

Rumex hymenosepalum.

- Gambier.** 51. This plant is a shrubby creeper, whose leaves produce the best tannin on the market. The gambier of commerce is an earthy-looking substance agglutinated in cubes or masses. It is best adapted to rainy countries and would very likely thrive in Seychelles. It is grown from seeds and a small crop of leaves is obtained at the end of the first year. 700 plants go to an acre. The production of leaves lasts from 20 to 30 years, and a crop is reaped twice a year. The leaves are boiled for an hour and then squeezed with the hand; the decoction is then evaporated to the consistency of a thin syrup which crystallises in cooling. As it thickens it is dried in the shade and cut into cubes.

Uncaria gambier.

Gambier is also used for medicinal purposes and to give beer a dark brown colour. The tannin is much appreciated on account of its special re-action with lime in the early steps of tanning being so different from other tannins.

- Indigo.** 52. Although growing well in Seychelles, indigo requires a special system of cultivation and manipulation, and, if it is to be taken up, it must be cultivated on a large scale.

Indigofera tinctoria.

- Annatto.** 53. Many plants of annatto are found near the huts of the natives in several of the villages. It is from the pulp which covers the seeds that the dye is obtained. The pulp is made into a paste in water and then dried into cakes. The paste fetches from 5*d.* to 1*s* 8*d.* per lb., and is employed principally for cheese colouring.

Bixa orellana.

(F.)—FIBRE PLANTS.

- Bowstring hemp.** 54. Some specimens of bowstring hemp have already been introduced into Seychelles and are found growing on the roadsides. The fibre is used for cordage.

Sansevieria.

55. The agave should be introduced from the Bahamas. It is *Agave*.
one of the best fibre plants and the yield of leaves is double *sisalana*.
that of the aloë.
56. The two *Fourcroya* of Mauritius are already established in *Aloes*.
this Colony. A ton of fibre is, at the present time, worth about *Fourcroya*.
Rs. 400.
57. The ramie would find here an excellent climate for its *Ramie*.
growth, and its conversion into fibre could be conducted locally *Boehmeria*
with the newly-discovered machines. Unfortunately this in- *nivea*
dustry requires a large supply of labour.
58. Many hibiscus are indigenous including *H. Tiliacus* (Var.) *Hibiscus*.
which is a fibre-producing tree requiring but little attention for
its growth and manufacture.
59. The *tæca pinnatifida*, which was introduced probably from *Tæca*
Madagascar, grows wild everywhere in the Seychelles group. *pinnatifida*.
60. The *dianella* reaches a great height,—often as much as *Dianella*.
10 feet— alongside the rivers.
61. Many varieties of this plant are indigenous. Bags are *Pandanus*.
already made and exported to Mauritius for packing sugar. The
Seychelles soap is also packed in them. The cultivation of this
plant should be extended. Cuttings can be made out of the
branches and planted in swampy soils.
62. This hemp should be experimented on in Seychelles, al- *Manilla*
though it has never succeeded in any other country except the *hemp*.
Philippines from which it is exported. *Musatextilis*.
63. The Kapok grows everywhere in the islands, and should be *Kapok*.
propagated as props for the cultivation of pepper. *Eriodendron*
anfractu-
osum.
64. Many *sterculia* are found in Seychelles, some of them pro- *Sterculia*.
ducing a good wood for cabinet work.

(G.)—FRUITS.

65. Few plants are cultivated in Seychelles for their fruits. Fruit trees
The following is a list of the fruit trees which have been already
introduced:—

Tamarind	...	...	Tamarindus Indica
Banana	...	...	Musa sapientium
Orange	...	...	Citrus aurantium
Lemon	...	...	Citrus medica
Lime	...	...	Citrus limetta
Shaddock	...	...	Citrus decumana
Avocado pear	...	...	Persea gratissima
Mango	...	...	Mangifera Indica
Bread-fruit	...	...	Artocarpus incisa
Rima	...	...	Artocarpus incisa var.

Nutmeg	...	...	<i>Myristica fragrans</i>
Otaheite apple	...	...	<i>Eugenia Malaccensis</i>
Cashew	...	...	<i>Anacardrium occidentale</i>
Grapes	...	...	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>
Cherimoyer	...	...	<i>Anona cherimolia</i>
Soursop	...	...	<i>Anona muricata</i>
Custard apple	...	...	<i>Anona reticulata</i>
Sweet sop	...	...	<i>Anona squamosa</i>
Guava	...	...	<i>Psidium guava</i>
Pine-apple	...	...	<i>Ananas satira</i> (5 varieties)
Pomegranate	...	...	<i>Punica granatum</i>
Durian	...	...	<i>Durio Zibethinus</i> (two trees at Government House, one of which has borne fruit this year).
Almond	...	...	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>
Water melon	...	...	<i>Citrullus vulgaris</i>
Jack fruit	...	...	<i>Autocarpus integrifolia</i>
Ground-nut	...	...	<i>Arachis hypogea</i>
Carambol	...	...	<i>Averrhoa carambola</i>
Bilimbi	...	...	<i>Averrhoa bilimbi</i>
Golden apple	...	...	<i>Spondias dulcis</i>
Loquat	...	...	<i>Eriobotria japonica</i>
Candle-nut	...	...	<i>Aleurites triloba</i>
Date	...	...	<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>
Baobab	...	...	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>
Papaw	...	...	<i>Carica papæia</i>
Litchi	...	...	<i>Nephelium litchi</i>

Small attention is given to these fruits. A few oranges are exported to Mauritius without being properly packed. Preserved bananas are also sometimes exported to the same Colony where they are sold at a remunerative price.

Bananas.

66. The banana is dried by simple exposure to the sun. In a moist country like Seychelles it would be better to have them exposed to an atmosphere of sulphurous acid gas and prepared by means of American fruit drying machines so as to give the produce a more attractive appearance and a uniform colour.

Neglected cultivation of fruit trees.

67. All other fruits are grown for local consumption only. The trees are never manured, in spite of the numerous fertilising resources of Seychelles and of the well known effect of such agents on the flavour and size of fruits.

Absence of selection.

68. Good varieties are never selected for propagation. Mangos, litchis, &c., are principally propagated from seeds, and bear, after a long time, only inferior fruits. Attempts are sometimes made to increase the productiveness of fruit trees by cutting into the stem and main branches of the trees. This process is useless and noxious, and a much better result may be obtained by pruning the roots.

Root pruning.

This operation consists in digging a trench 2 feet wide round the tree and in cutting off all the roots which sink perpendicularly into the soil. The trench is then filled up with good soil.

69. Nearly all the different species of oranges grow in Seychelles. Shaddocks, sweet oranges, bitter oranges, Bermagot oranges, Tangerine oranges, lemons and limes all grow very easily, as they are well adapted to the moist and warm climate. These fruits should be exported on a greater scale to Mauritius and Aden where the climate does not permit of their being grown. Oranges.

70. The lime (*citrus medica* var. *acida*) is very widely distributed all over the islands, and bears abundant crops both on the sea shore and at the highest elevations. Some fruits are now exported to Mauritius both in their natural state and preserved in salt water. Limes.

The abundance of this fruit tree should induce some planters to start a lime juice and essence factory. Citrate of lime should also be made for exportation, but this salt never keeps a long time and it would be better to adopt, for the present, the old system of concentrating the juice to a viscid state, and to pack it in barrels or demijohns which should be hermetically sealed before exportation. Lime industries.

71. Special mention must be made of the pineapple which has been found in this colony a climate and soil most favourable to its growth. Pine-apple.

There are five varieties, three of which grow wild on the mountains, two red varieties and one dark.

The two others are table varieties known here and in Mauritius as Victoria and Maingard. The Maingard which is probably the smooth cayenne, although introduced from Mauritius, reaches in Seychelles dimensions quite unknown in the other Colony without special cultivation. Enormous fruits of 15 lbs. and even 20 lbs. are sometimes seen, and are sold locally with great profit. Regular plantations of this valuable plant should be made and good varieties selected. Fruits of such size can easily be exported to Europe at a time when the competition of most of the other Colonies, except the Azores, is stopped; the bearing season in Seychelles being from November to January, although fruits of an inferior quality are also obtained during the remainder of the year. If the shipping facilities are not sufficient for a regular exportation, some fruits only might be exported to Europe, and the remainder either forwarded to Aden or sold to the steamers calling at Mahé.

The physical characteristics of the soil, combined with the slope of the hills which ensures a perfect drainage, render land in Seychelles especially suitable for the cultivation of pine-apples. Planting is sometimes carried on here without choosing good suckers as cuttings, and the crown or head of the pine is generally preferred. In the West Indies, where the pine-apple industry is in a flourishing condition, it has been proved that, if

the crown takes 21 months to bear, the suckers from another plant will take about twelve months.

Fruits
suitable for
introduction.

72. There are many other fruits which can be introduced into Seychelles, where from the sea shore to the summits of the mountains different climates are found most suitable to the West and East Indian and even to some European trees.

The following should be recommended:—

Ficus carica.

Figs will thrive in valleys and mountains near the sea.

*Ceratonia
siliqua.*

The carob tree furnishes a very nutritious food both for human and animal consumption.

*Cypho-
mandra
Betacea.*

The fruits of the tree tomato, which is a native of Peru. The fruits are eaten as chutney, or they may be fried or stewed or converted into jam.

This plant is better adapted to the climate of Seychelles than the ordinary tomato.

*Achras
sopota.*

Achras sopota or *sapodilla* is a very good fruit, common in the West Indies and in Bourbon.

*Passiflora
laurifolia.*

Pomme d'or.

*Passiflora
macrocarpa.*

Granadilla.

*Spondias
purpurea.*

Jamaica plum.

*Mammea
Americana.*

Mammee apple.

*Garcinia
mangostana.*

Mangosteen.

*Eugenia
Brasilensis.*

Brazil cherry.

*Bertholletia
excelsa.*

Brazil nut.

*Phoenix
dactylifera.*

The date palm will thrive only in those islands of the Archipelago where the rainfall is small. It should never be propagated from seeds but only from suckers of well known origin.

(H.)—RUBBER TREES.

Rubber.

73. A tree planting country like Seychelles must afford a place for this interesting class of plants which is now only in its experimental stage, and which would prove of great profit to this colony.

There are many indigenous rubber and gutta percha trees in Seychelles, among which we may mention:—

Tabernaemontana (Bois de lait).

Northea Seychellana (Capucin).

Imbricaria Seychellarum (Natte).

Takamaka.

Ficus, different varieties.

The presence of these plants, especially the gutta percha trees, which are now very scarce as the whole country has been deforested, proves that the introduction of other species of greater economic value might be made with profit.

Some rubber trees have been already introduced. The Ceara Rubber (*Manihot Glaziovii*) and the Assam Rubber (*Ficus elastica*) are thriving well.

Two Ceara Rubber trees, grown on Mount Sebert Estate, which were supposed to be Para Rubber trees, were tapped in July. These two trees of about four years old were growing in a rich soil in a small depression of ground and were about 24 inches in girth at the time of the experiment. Ceara
rubber,
Manihot
Glaziovii.

Although many incisions were made, only ten cubic centimetres of milk were obtained and coagulated in presence of acetic acid, producing a small piece of good rubber.

This rubber tree has been proved to yield very little rubber in rich soil and is considered as a tree well adapted to poor soils. Seeds obtained from Mount Sebert Estate have been sown at the Botanic Station and the seedlings obtained were transplanted in January to a very poor soil. The plants are growing rapidly, one of them being already more than 10 feet high.

There are four Assam rubber trees of about 20 years old at La Misère. They have been tapped twice; the first time, during the dry season, and the second time in October. Each time an abundant yield of very thick latex was obtained and collected in hand basins containing a determined quantity of water with a few drops of ammonia to prevent coagulation. A clot of very fine rubber (60 per cent. of the milk) was obtained by boiling the solution in presence of acetic acid and creosote. It was dried and forwarded to Europe with a view of ascertaining its approximate value on the market. Assam
rubber.
Ficus
elastica.

Since that time an immense Assam rubber tree was discovered near Victoria, measuring about 12 feet in circumference and covering an area of more than 7,000 square feet. This rubber tree has also been tapped and a very good sample of rubber has been obtained and forwarded to Europe. It is now being propagated at the Botanic Station, and, as its requirements with regard to soil are not great, it could be utilised as a shade tree nearly everywhere on the island.

The other rubber plants which should be introduced are the following:—

1. The *castilloa elastica* which is a tree suitable for low-lying flat ground. It has been introduced into the West Indies with success. Tapped twice a year from the fifth year, this rubber tree will yield one lb. of rubber per annum, and the coagulation of its latex is so easy that it can be carried on by means of centrifugal machines. Vanilla and cacao cultivation can be mixed with that of Panama rubber trees which must be allowed in turn a high and well-distributed shade. Panama
rubber.

2. The *Hevea Brasiliensis* can be grown in localities where nothing else could be profitably cultivated, such as river banks which are inundated, marshy lands, and sand deposits. Its natural habitat is the mouth of the Amazon, where the climatic conditions are exactly those of Seychelles. Para
rubber
Hevea
Brasiliensis.

West
African
rubber.

Rubber
vinea.

The *funtumia elastica* yields a very good rubber which stands near to Para in value and is adapted to poor soils at low levels, which are commonly found in Seychelles.

Landolphas can be planted to cover rocky and uncultivable grounds. Close planting in rubber plantations is necessary to obtain straight stems which allow an easy running of latex in tapping. As much as 5 to 10 lbs. of rubber per annum is obtained from each tree in well established plantations.

All these plants will soon be placed at the disposal of planters. Great care has been taken in introducing into Seychelles the very best varieties of rubber trees as well as of gutta percha trees, some of which are also valuable as timber trees.

(I.)—MISCELLANEOUS.

*Saccharum
officinatum.*

74. Sugar cane grows easily in Seychelles where a popular cider ("Bacca") is made by the fermentation of the juice extracted by means of the well known Malagasy wood roller, or even by cocoanut mills.

New varieties of cane derived from seedings should be introduced from Mauritius where some of them are richer in juice and quicker in growth than the old varieties.

Formerly a very good spirit was manufactured at Frigate Island and sold even in Europe.

All the rum is now imported from Mauritius where this article is produced at an exceedingly low price.

In 1900 the importation reached 69,000 litres. This figure is too low to justify the establishment of a rum distillery, as 100 acres of land in cane would produce this quantity of rum. But a distillery would be of great advantage to the Colony if a special beverage could be made and exported like the Angostura bitters of Trinidad. The production of alcohol at a low price in a colony must also be taken into consideration on account of its many industrial uses.

Scents.

75. There are many timber trees and plants in Seychelles which can yield perfumes.

*Hesperia
populnea.*

The *Hesperia populnea* or Bois Porcher gives a brown essence. The flower buds and unripe fruits yield a viscid juice useful as a dye, and a red coloured oil is also extracted from the seed.

*Carissa
Seychellensis.*

Sandal wood. The wood of this valuable timber tree yields an oil much sought after in pharmacy and perfumery.

Many other plants such as:

Ilang Ilang (*Cananga odorata*).

Vetivert (*Andropogon muricatus*).

Patchouli (*Pogostemon patchouli*).

Geranium (*Pelagonium capitatum*).

and above all lime trees would yield essences, as the vegetable productions of this Colony are endowed with this property to a marked degree.

V.—BOTANIC STATION.

76. The question of establishing a Botanic Station in Sey-
chelles was raised many times during the last twenty years, but
it was not until the arrival in November, 1899, of His Honour
E. B. Sweet Escott, C.M.G., the present Administrator, that any
real attempt was made to carry the project into effect on a prac-
tical basis. Site of
station.

A Botanic Station Enquiry Committee was appointed early in 1900, and it was decided that the station should be established on a temporary footing for three years. A sub-committee, principally composed of gentlemen interested in agriculture, selected a site of six acres on Hermitage Estate, which is the only large estate in the immediate vicinity of Victoria. This site formed part of an old and neglected plantation of cocoanuts between which ground provisions had been cultivated for years by a labourer of the estate. The piece of land being covered with shrubs and weeds at the time of its selection it was difficult to see exactly the nature of the soil and its possibilities. When these shrubs and weeds were removed, a very great number of granitic boulders, covering the ground in all directions, were found, and it was then ascertained that the soil had been washed by rains after repeated cultivation of ground provisions.

There only remained a sub-soil of a gravelly nature, and a few patches of surface soil where nursery beds have now been established.

On account of the poorness of the soil and owing to its relative unsuitability for general cultivation, it was suggested to look for another site. But, though every effort was made, it was impossible to find in the valley in which the town of Victoria is situated any other piece of land where the three conditions necessary for the establishment of a Botanic Station were united; namely, central situation and easy access, homogeneous soil, and a good water supply.

The upper end of the Victoria valley is very fertile, and although some part of it formerly belonged to the Government there is no piece of land now available for sale at a reasonable price.

Close to the Rochon River a good homogeneous sandy loam is found near the sea, but that piece of land, which is flat, is divided into many properties and is more than a mile distant from the centre of the town. Behind the Cathedral, the Roman Catholic Mission have in their possession a small property much less exhausted by cultivation than the part of Hermitage Estate and which could be leased at about the same price, but this plot of ground is also hilly and the water supply is insufficient in the dry season. The present site is one of the best for establishing a Botanic Station in Seychelles, but the poorness of its soil, the

presence everywhere on the grounds of huge boulders of hundreds of tons in weight will necessitate an amount of work and labour which the Botanic Station Committee did not fully contemplate when they proposed the establishment of the station on a temporary footing for three years.

Experi-
mental
plantations

77. It is to be hoped that some of the proprietors of Seychelles will place at the disposal of the Curator pieces of land of their own for carrying on experiments, for, unless this is done, it will be necessary to enlarge the site of the Botanic Station.

If it is found necessary to enlarge the Station, it would, perhaps, be best to secure a piece of land situated on the other side of the Trois Frères River where water could be supplied by one of the reservoirs of Victoria.

This piece of land is not far distant from the disused turtle pond where a second entrance to the station could be made, thus allowing a circular promenade from the middle of the town to Mont Fleuri through the Botanic Station.

Work done
at the
station.

78. The following work has been done at the Station during the past year:

Clearing
grounds.

1. Clearing the grounds for the first two months.

Establish-
ment of
nurseries.

2. Laying out a nursery in the high parts of the ground so as to utilise seeds brought from Mauritius. This work took more than a month on account of the removal of huge boulders, some of which had to be blasted.

Coolies' huts.

3. The construction of the coolies' huts by the labourers themselves who went to Praslin to cut the necessary wood in the forest. A labourer was left at the Botanic Station during the absence of the others to water the plants in cultivation.

Field
experiments.

4. The establishment of three fields, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, for experimenting on the action of Seychelles guano and for studying those plants which had some chance of becoming acclimatised.

A great many varieties of seeds have been sown in these three fields. They were received from England, India, Ceylon, and Mauritius. The action of guano and the effects of the climate were for the most part studied on vegetables on account of the rapid growth of these plants and the short time required for the various experiments.

Vegetable
growing.

79. The climate of Seychelles has a most violent action on the growth of plants coming from temperate climates. The young leaves are burnt during the hot hours of the day. Many lettuces and tomatoes were thus prevented from growing, but the same plants, when placed in sheltered situations and near rivers where the temperature of the air is lower, have succeeded well.

This experiment proves that delicate plants must be grown under screen shadings until they have become acclimatised.

With regard to tomatoes especially, the acclimatisation of plants seems to play a great part. Seeds from England produced plants which grew only a few inches before being blackened and burnt, but seeds from Mauritius and even from some parts of Mahé, where tomatoes are cultivated, produced plants which completed without trouble all the phases of their vegetation. Un-acclimatised plants suffer especially at the time of blossoming, when all the immediate constituents are brought to the flowers and when the food requirements of the plants are greater.

80. When the temperature is higher, i.e., during the N.W. monsoon, the burning action of the sun is greater, but during this season caterpillars are far less numerous than during the S.E. monsoon, and so plants can be cultivated which are generally placed out of cultivation by destructive insects. ^{Action of sun.}

81. The experiments which were made with guano proved most interesting in some cases. A few plants, such as the Hibiscus ^{guano.} *esculentus*, produced flowers when only a few inches high in a poor sandy soil, which, after being manured with guano containing a large quantity of organic matter, produced plants whose petioles were longer than the height of the whole plant growing without guano. A papaw tree manured with guano and cow dung also produced fruits of 8 and 10 lbs. in weight after six months' growth, at the end of which time seedlings of the same origin but not manured had not produced a single flower.

82. The action of manure in the poor sandy soil of the Station is so marked that not only the output of the plantations is increased but a great deal of time is saved by using it. ^{Action of manures.}

83. All the vegetable and flower seeds of India on which I experimented had lost their germinative powers and seemed to be seeds purchased in Europe and kept a very long time before being forwarded to destination. It is a great disadvantage that there is no good seed establishment in the tropics where fresh seeds can be purchased a short time after having been gathered. ^{Indian seeds.}

84. Well sheltered spots on the hills, from 500 feet upwards, are best suited for the cultivation of vegetable and flower plants. Near the sea shore the insects are more numerous and give much trouble, and some plants, such as potatoes, are so much overheated during their growth that some tubers, although unripe in appearance, and still very small, germinate in the soil. ^{Localities for gardening.}

85. The insecticides which can be used with success in gardens near the sea shore are the following: ^{Insecticides}

For vegetables:—

a. Solution of Rilley.

Petroleum	2 gallons.
Water	1 gallon.
Soap	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

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This is mixed with from four to twenty times its bulk of water and should be well stirred before being used.

- b. Tobacco refuse.
- c. Pyrethrum powder.

For flowers:—

- a. London purple.
- b. Paris green.

Scale insects.

86. The scale insects are extremely numerous in Seychelles, and all fruit trees suffer to a great extent from their attack. The treatment by the gas derived from potassium cyanide under an air-tight tent would be fatal to them. As a rule, however, fruit trees suffer more when they are grown in poor soils, and proper manuring will always lessen the injury done by scale insects.

Sowing cases.

87. 5. *Establishment of a shed for sowing seeds.*—This shed was found necessary because heavy rains uprooted seedlings which are only transplanted when the roots are well formed. The cases in which seeds are sown must be often removed from the sheds, when the weather is favourable, because fungi grow rapidly in this climate when sun is not admitted freely.

Fernery.

88. 6. The laying out of the banks of the Trois Frères River where a fernery has been started.

Nearly all the indigenous ferns and orchids have been collected in the forests and planted there together with a few specimens of plants such as arum, maranta, dieffenbachia, athurium, &c., which were received from Mauritius, and some handsome Brazilian orchids and calladiums, very kindly presented by Mr. Merian, the proprietor of Mamelles Estate.

Rubber and cacao plantations.

7. A piece of one acre has been selected and planted with plantains and albizzia in rows so as to start a grove of rubber and cacao in a short time.

Ceara rubber plantations.

8. A very bad plot of ground has been planted with Ceara rubber which are said to produce more latex on poor soils.

Roads.

9. Roads and steps have been made throughout the grounds so as to enable visitors to see all portions of the station, and a large road has been started so as to make a circular promenade round the lawn and pond which are also being made.

Pond.

10. At the foot of a hill all the springs run into small basins which by being connected will form a supply for the pond.

Laboratory.

11. A laboratory has been built up by the Public Works Department and is now provided with some of the essential articles for analysing soils and manures, and for collecting plants and zoological specimens.

Sale of plants.

12. Many plants have been placed in balls of earth or bamboo pots and offered for sale, and many others are now in preparation for the planters of Seychelles and South Africa.

The following is a brief list of the plants which have been already sold:

Parkia Roxburghii.
Nutmega.
Oranges of different kinds.
Eucalypti of different kinds.
Date palms.
Canna
Albizzia.
Ivy (ficus).
Thomea, coleus, maranta.
Crotons.
Roses.
Begonias.
Cedar (Casuarina).
Cherimolia, Jack fruit tree.
Ormosia, mountain cherry.
Ceara rubber, carob tree.
Calladium.
Papaw, cotton tree.
Seychelles Gayac (Afzelia bijuga).
Capsicum.
Egg fruit plants.
Sterculia (cacao).
Filicium decipiens,
Custard apple, squorsop.
Bougainvillea, Pomegranate.
Franciscea, Bauhinia.
Helichrysum.
Pandanus, Tamarind.
Tangerine Oranges.
Verschaffeltia splendida, and all the other Seychelles palms.

R. DUPONT,

21st May, 1902.

Curator of the Botanic Station.

LONDON :
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1902.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 361.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 324.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1902.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
341.	Ceylon	1900
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900-1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900-1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900-1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900-1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda... ..	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar... ..	"
360	Straits Settlements	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla... ..	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies... ..	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.

SIERRA LEONE, 1901.

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No. 361.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 324.)

ACTING GOVERNOR HENSTOCK to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Fort Thornton,

Freetown, Sierra Leone,

SIR,

2nd August, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1901 which has been prepared by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

F. J. HENSTOCK, Lieut.-Col.,

Acting Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE, 1901.

I.—FINANCIAL.

It will be noticed with satisfaction that the financial condition of the Colony gives no cause for alarm, but on the other hand shows a decided progress. The revenue of 1901 far exceeded that of any previous year. The expenditure is larger than any previous year, but the reason of this is owing to the liberal policy adopted in Public Works in the Protectorate.

The Revenue collected in 1901 amounted to £192,138, and the Expenditure to £173,497.

The following table gives a comparison of the Revenue for the last two years classified under the principal heads:—

Head.	1900.	1901.	In-crease.	De-crease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	102,969	104,935	1,966	—
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues	3,072	3,128	56	—
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	5,359	4,957	—	402
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimburse-ments in aid.	4,177	6,062	1,885	—
Post Office and Savings Bank	2,882	6,984	4,102	—
Rents on Government Property	328	163	—	165
Interest	1,653	20	—	1,633
Miscellaneous receipts	4,854	6,148	1,294	—
Railway	10,273	21,394	11,121	—
Protectorate	33,803	38,347	4,544	—
Total	169,370	192,138	24,968	2,200

The total increase of Expenditure in 1901 as compared with 1900 was £15,932.

The following table gives the various instances of increase and decrease under the different heads of Expenditure for the last two years:—

EXPENDITURE.

Head.	1900.	1901.	In-crease.	De-crease.
	£	£	£	£
Charge on Account of Public Debt ...	10,082	12,832	2,750	—
Pensions	4,681	4,837	156	—
Governor and Legislature	3,550	4,328	778	—
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	2,733	2,975	242	—
Provincial Administration	1,390	1,623	233	—
Treasury	1,900	2,020	120	—
Customs Department	9,490	8,685	—	805
Audit Department	1,358	1,302	—	56
Port and Marine Department	935	1,008	73	—
Legal Department	5,333	5,050	—	283
Civil Police	8,404	8,837	429	—
Prisons	4,031	3,983	—	48
Medical Department	3,761	4,730	969	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	4,510	5,504	994	—
Nursing Home	720	740	20	—
Education	2,946	3,247	301	—
Transport	1,063	1,236	173	—
Miscellaneous Services	7,505	8,552	1,047	—
Post Office	4,454	7,112	2,658	—
Colonial Steamer	1,874	1,541	—	333
Botanical and Agricultural Department.	1,199	1,443	244	—
Sierra Leone Railway	22,412	20,315	—	2,097
Public Works Department	2,319	2,586	267	—
" " Recurrent	5,065	5,071	6	—
" " Extraordinary	6,425	4,417	—	2,008
Frontier Police	22,317	23,707	1,390	—
Protectorate	17,064	25,776	8,712	—
Total	157,525	173,457	21,562	5,630

The increase, as I have already previously stated, is largely due to the opening up of the Protectorate. The only direct taxation is the hut and house tax; at present the rate in the Protectorate is 5s. per hut. The house tax in the Colony is 5s. for houses not exceeding annual rental value of £5, and 5 per cent. on houses exceeding annual rental value of £5. The proceeds of the latter tax do not form part of General Revenue, but is expended in improving the districts in which it is raised. During the year under review there has been no increase in either taxation or in Customs duties. There is no Funded Debt. The sum of £39,765 is due to the Imperial Government on account of the military expeditions in 1898-99, repayable in annual instalments of £5,000.

The Crown Agents had advanced £417,899 up to 31st December, 1901, for railway construction in anticipation of the issue of Inscribed Stock. In addition to this sum the Colony has expended from its surplus fund £74,522 on railway works, which

amount will be refunded to Revenue when the loan is raised. The Colony is indebted to the Crown Agents in the sum of £13,121 overpaid by them on current account on 31st December, 1901.

The following table exhibits the growth of Revenue and Expenditure during the last five years:—

Year.					Revenue.	Expenditure.
					£	£
1897	...	...	...	...	106,009	111,678
1898	...	...	...	...	117,682	121,112
1899	...	...	...	...	168,382	145,088
1900	...	...	...	...	169,370	157,525
1901	...	...	...	...	192,138	173,457

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of imports in 1901 was £548,286, and the value of exports £304,010, thus making the total value of the trade of the Colony for the year £852,296, a decrease of £68,446 on the year 1900.

The following table shows the general classification of all Imports:—

Articles.	Value in sterling including expenses.
	£
1. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics	154,558
2. Raw materials—	
Metal and other	1,059
3. Manufactured articles—	
(a) Textile	176,739
(b) Metal	57,686
(c) Other	156,342
4. Coin and Bullion	1,902
Making a total of £548,286	

The Customs receipts during the year at the two ports of the Colony were as follows:—

Ports.	Imports exclusive of Spirits, Gunpowder and Guns	Spirits.	Gunpowder.	Guns.	Totals.
Freetown ...	£ 52,397	£ 29,976	£ 30	£ 69	£ 82,472
Bonthe ...	6,742	14,276	—	—	21,018
Total ...	59,139	44,252	30	69	103,490

The following comparative table for the last five years shows that the greater proportion of the Import trade is with the United Kingdom:—

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Colonies.	Total.
1897 ...	£ 377,508	£ 6,097	£ 73,784	£ 457,389
1898 ...	512,099	12,733	81,517	606,349
1899 ...	544,586	19,596	125,624	689,806
1900 ...	425,245	13,211	119,815	558,271
1901 ...	411,578	10,857	125,851	548,286

The value of Imports in 1901 shows a decrease of £9,985 on the previous year, and, judging by figures, does not compare favourably with previous years, as will be seen from the following table:—

Year.	Value of Imports excluding Colonial and Imperial Government Imports and Specie.	Colonial Government Imports.	Imperial Government Imports.	Specie including Colonial and Imperial Government Importations.	Totals.
1897 ...	£ 402,415	£ 37,753	£ 11,176	£ 6,045	£ 457,389
1898 ...	429,933	37,152	94,135	45,129	606,349
1899 ...	567,178	37,443	52,367	32,818	689,806
1900 ...	479,215	37,738	36,199	5,119	558,271
1901 ...	461,892	56,557	27,959	1,878	548,286

The heaviest decreases in 1901 as compared with the previous year are in coals, military stores, and building materials, due to supplies in 1900 being in excess of requirements. The largest increases are on hardware and carriages, caused by railway works, although wearing apparel, cotton seeds, haberdashery, provisions, each show an increase of £3,000 over 1900.

The value of imports compares not unfavourably with past years. In 1899 the value was abnormal owing to reaction of trade after the insurrection, and such excess could not be expected to be permanent. The decrease is largely owing to less importation of coal, valued at £11,556; the increases and decreases on other articles of commerce are merely fluctuations due to no specific cause.

Exports.

The total Exports for the year 1901 show a decrease of £58,461 over the previous year.

The following table shows the trade in the three important exports for the last three years:—

Year.	Palm Oil.		Palm Kernels.		Rubber.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.
1899 ...	78,420	£ 4,555	20,058	£ 163,271	546,385	£ 43,730
1900 ...	128,608	7,436	21,517	171,774	274,646	25,741
1901 ...	164,340	9,816	161,749	131,655	131,655	9,203

The following comparative statement shows the quantity and value of rubber exported from the Colony to the under-mentioned countries during 1901:—

Countries.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.
United Kingdom ...	lbs 244,316	lbs. 105,360	£ 22,335	£ 7,174
Germany ...	30,330	26,295	3,406	2,029
Other Countries ...	274,646	131,655	25,741	9,203

The trade in rubber has declined, owing to the article getting gradually less, and higher prices being offered in the adjoining

Colony of French Guinea. The native also is to blame, as undoubtedly one of the causes of the decline of the production of rubber has been caused by the destructive manner in which the product is collected, the wasteful method by which it was gathered at the sacrifice of the tree's life—a suicidal process, of which it is believed and hoped that the collectors are learning to appreciate the disadvantage. In the adjoining French Colony of Guinea the price is 2s. a pound, and only the best rubber is allowed to be exported, *i.e.*, rubber containing not more than one per cent. of dirty matter mixed with it, whereas in this Colony good quality rubber and dirty adulterated rubber are both bought by merchants at prices varying from 1s. to 1s. 8d. per pound.

In palm kernels there was a slight decrease in 1901 over 1900, although the market value remained the same. There is great scope for the extension of the palm oil and kernel trade; it is the difficulty of transport which has to be overcome. Unlike rubber which can be more easily handled, and, owing to its greater value, can better bear the disproportionate expense of the carriage by head—which is the only land transport obtainable in the greater part of the Protectorate—the palm kernel or palm oil cannot reach a shipping port from any distance in the interior before the cost of transport exceeds its value. The completion of the railway will revolutionize the trade in this product, and be the means of bringing to the port the thousands of tons of kernels that at present are allowed to rot.

The trade in kola nuts has declined in comparison with previous years; this is owing to the supply being greater than the demand, with the consequent fall in prices. The following table shows the direction of exports for the last five years:—

Year.			To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
			£	£	£	£
1897	...	...	188,915	29,234	182,569	400,748
1898	...	...	117,726	30,948	142,317	290,991
1899	...	...	135,635	42,412	157,964	336,011
1900	...	...	125,559	59,275	177,637	362,471
1901	...	...	7,588	46,228	170,194	304,010

1901 is the first year on record that the export to foreign countries has exceeded that to the United Kingdom and British Colonies. Germany, as usual, is the rival purchaser, and out of the £170,194 exported to foreign countries, £118,070 went to Germany.

The following table shows the state of the trade of the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Imports		Exports.	Total.
	Paying Duty.	Admitted Free.		
	£	£	£	£
1897	362,663	80,454	400,748	843,865
1898	388,358	218,844	290,991	898,193
1899	525,102	164,500	336,011	1,025,613
1900	422,559	133,018	362,471	918,048
1901	420,253	128,591	304,010	852,854

There are two causes which account for the temporary falling off of the trade—the first is the severe restrictions placed on all produce brought into the Colony from the French sphere, thereby depriving this Colony of the Soudan trade which was a large asset in former years, and, secondly, the disturbances in the Protectorate in 1898 from which the people are only now recovering and beginning their ordinary agricultural, as well as trading, operations.

The railway is bound to be a remarkable factor in the development of the country and to largely increase the present trade; notwithstanding the decrease as shown by the foregoing figures the trade of the Colony is in a healthy state, and in the year under review there has been a decided activity in commercial circles. The condition of the country is distinctly promising.

SHIPPING.

The following table shows the comparative statement of total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years:—

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1897	646	16,002	746	1,068,743
1898	266	10,006	740	1,100,222
1899	325	15,143	736	1,166,605
1900	596	12,966	817	1,277,967
1901	445	17,069	787	1,232,739

Communication between Europe and this Colony is almost exclusively in the hands of Messrs. Elder Dempster & Company, of Liverpool, whose steamers convey the mails, but no subsidy is paid by the Government. There is a regular weekly mail to and

from England, and the service has been considerably improved during the last year both as regards the regular time kept as well as in the class of steamers, although from the passengers' point of view much still remains to be done in the way of catering. Spanish vessels maintaining communications between Spain and her Colonies of Fernando Po call at Sierra Leone—the existence of a colony of Sierra Leoneans at Fernando Po making the call necessary.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

Agriculture is of the most primitive kind, rice, cassada, Indian corn, and ginger are planted. There is no reason why rice should not do exceptionally well in this country; experts describe it as an ideal rice-producing country, yet there is no endeavour made at irrigation, or to cultivate it in any very large quantities. There appears to be a total absence of system in agriculture in this Colony. A piece of bush-land with valuable timber trees is burnt, between the charred stumps the soil is scraped up into heaps, and crops of rice and corn are raised. Crops are grown on the same ground until the land gets exhausted, then the grower moves on and commences the same process on a fresh piece of land.

There is a Botanical Garden in the capital of the Colony under charge of an European curator, and every endeavour is being made by the Government to educate the native in the best methods of agriculture, and to teach him what the economic plants are and their value. Seedlings of plants liable to become valuable in the country are forwarded to the different native chiefs with instructions how to plant them and what their value should be.

At Songo Town, a few miles from the capital of the Colony, the Government have an experimental farm. The experiments with cinnamon, cocoa, and cocoa-nuts have been most successful, and promise well for the future. Over 30,000 seedlings of eucalyptus are doing well. There are several thousands of young plants of landolphia which will be shortly ready for distribution to chiefs who are willing to plant these rubber trees in their districts.

The following are brief notes of the botanical work done with a view of providing the proper cultivation or treatment, for distribution in the Colony and Protectorate, of the chief economic plants grown in the Botanical Gardens.

Cinnamon.

There are twenty trees of *Cinnamon Zelaricum*, some bearing seeds.

Cocoa.

There are 300 young plants of *Theobroma Cocos*.

Furcrea Cabensis.

A silk grass fibre. There are a large number of these plants, and it will be possible to distribute a supply large enough to make large plantations.

Sansevieria Guineensis.

Bow-string hemp. Three nursery beds full of leaf cuttings were put in last August to demonstrate the manner in which this plant may be propagated extensively. The rooting of these and growth from the base has been a source of wonder and interest to all visitors.

Rubber.

Hevea Braziliensis.—This plant shows the most promising growth in the rubber section. The soil it grows on is poor and gravelly.

Landolphia.—This plant is doing very well, and there is a large stock nearly ready for distribution.

Funtumea elastica.—This valuable tree has not been found in this Colony; seedlings and seed have been obtained from the Gold Coast and Lagos and planted extensively

Owing to the restrictions placed on cattle coming into the Protectorate over the French border, the natives found that the number of their cattle was becoming seriously reduced, so in order to help them and counteract the restrictions, the Government established a cattle station at Songo Town and imported a number of cattle from the Gambia with the idea of breeding and supplying the natives with the beasts they require. Naturally this process must be somewhat long, but the plan has resulted in the restrictions being withdrawn.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the Ordinances passed by the Legislature of the Colony of Sierra Leone during the year 1901 and assented to during the year under review.

Ordinance No. 3 of 1901. "The Petitions of Right Ordinance, 1901."—By the provisions of this Ordinance claims by the Government against private persons or by private persons against the Government are placed on the same footing as between subject and subject, with the difference that the Governor's consent must first be obtained in order to prosecute the claim in the Supreme Court. No Writ of Summons shall be issued, but a Statement of Claim filed and a copy thereof delivered at the office of the Attorney-General is all that is necessary to commence an action. No fee shall be payable on filing or delivering a Statement of Claim. All service of documents shall be made on the Attorney-General, and costs may be awarded in the same manner as in suits between private parties.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1901. "The Whipping of Juveniles Amendment Ordinance, 1901," amends the principal Ordinance (No 3 of 1900) by restoring the age of 16 as the limit for the whipping of juvenile offenders.

Ordinance No. 6 of 1901. "The Freetown Municipality Amendment Ordinance, 1901," amends the principal Ordinance (No. 6 of 1893) by reducing the amount of licence payable by builders under the principal Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 10 of 1901. "The Gambia Political Prisoners Detention Ordinance, 1901," authorises the detention in this Colony of six political prisoners from the Colony of the Gambia. The Governor has the legal custody of them and is to place such restrictions as he may deem fit to impose. Writs of Habeas Corpus are suspended.

Ordinance No. 12 of 1901. "The Post Office Savings Bank Amendment Ordinance, 1901," amends the principal Ordinance (No. 13 of 1900) by taking away from any trustee under any will or deed the power to make unlimited deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank.

Ordinance No. 13 of 1901. "The Civil Servants' Estates Administration Ordinance, 1901,"—The subject of this Ordinance provides for the administration of the estates of civil servants other than natives dying in the Colony. The Ordinance is drafted *mutatis mutandis*, on the lines of "The Regimental Debts Act, 1893."

Ordinance No. 14 of 1901. "The Summary Review Ordinance, 1901," provides for a speedier and surer mode of appeals from the various Courts of the District Commissioners of the Colony—the majority of persons charged in the above Courts with crimes or offences before the District Commissioner being too ignorant to avail themselves of the right of appeal under the provisions of the Appeal Ordinance (No. 4 of 1877). By this Ordinance a monthly list of criminal cases decided by the District Commissioner is to be forwarded to the Chief Justice, which list shall operate as an appeal on behalf of every convicted person whose name is included therein.

Ordinance No. 16 of 1901. "The Imperial Loans Amendment Ordinance, 1901," amends section 5 of the principal Ordinance (No. 7 of 1900), and provides that "the principal money to be borrowed under this Ordinance and the interest thereon are hereby charged upon, and shall be payable out of, the general revenue and assets of the Government of Sierra Leone, with priority over any charges thereon not existing at the time of such borrowing."

Ordinance No. 17 of 1901. "The Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance, 1901," exempts tools and machinery imported by miners or prospectors from the payment of Customs duties.

Ordinance No. 21 of 1901. "The Intestate Estates Amendment Ordinance, 1901," provides for the curator or any person

cited by the curator, to apply to the Chief Justice by petition or summons for his opinion, advice, or direction pending administration in any question regarding the property of an intestate.

Ordinance No. 22 of 1901. "The West African Frontier Force (Sierra Leone Battalion) Ordinance, 1901," repeals the Frontier Police Ordinance, 1890, and provides—

- (1) for the constitution and organisation of a military force to be called the West African Frontier Force.
- (2.) Enlistment, discharge and service.
- (3.) Discipline.
- (4.) General Provisions—
 - (a) Penalties,
 - (b) Enforcement of civil contracts,
 - (c) Wills and distribution of property.

Ordinance No. 23 of 1901. "The Sheriff and Under Sheriffs' Amendment Ordinance, 1901," empowers the Governor to appoint Assistant Under-Sheriffs, the necessity having arisen in consequence of the number of defaulters who have neglected to pay the house tax under the provisions of section 32 of Ordinance No. 11 of 1900.

Ordinance No. 25 of 1901. "The House Tax Amendment Ordinance, 1901," repeals section 6 of the principal Ordinance (No. 11 of 1900) and prescribes that a separate account shall be kept of moneys received and expended in respect of each district and shall not be included in the general revenue of the Colony, and that statements of the accounts shall be published in the "Sierra Leone Royal Gazette," and abstracts of the accounts of both revenue and expenditure shall be laid annually before the Legislative Council.

Ordinance No. 26 of 1901. "The Coroners Further Amendment Ordinance, 1901."—This Ordinance enables the Coroner to summon the Medical Officer of a public institution to give evidence without fee or remuneration as heretofore at an inquest held on the body of any person who died in such institution.

Ordinance No. 28 of 1901. "The Pensions Ordinance, 1901," came into force on the 22nd November last. It regulates the pension, gratuity and other allowances to public officials in the service of the Colony.

Ordinance No. 29 of 1901. "The Human Leopard and Alligator Societies Ordinance, 1901."—This Ordinance was passed for the purpose of repressing certain crimes perpetrated by certain secret societies known as the Human Leopard and Alligator Societies, but is possibly too drastic to be kept permanently on the Statute Book of the Colony, and will expire on the 31st day of December, 1902.

Ordinance No. 30 of 1901. "The Wild Animals, Birds, and Fish Preservation Ordinance, 1901."—This enactment deals with

the preservation of certain species of wild animals, birds, and fish from extinction. Under this Ordinance the Governor-in-Council is empowered to make regulations for the due and effectual execution of the Ordinance. Section 4 empowers the Governor to permit the collection of specimens of animals for museums, zoological gardens, or for any other scientific purposes.

Ordinance No. 33 of 1901. "The Protectorate Ordinance, 1902," consolidates, with some amendments, the previous enactments relating to the Protectorate. The Ordinance is divided into six parts:—

- (1.) Preliminary which deals with the interpretation of terms and the duties and powers of Assistant District Commissioners.
- (2.) Delimitation of the Protectorate, which defines the limits within which the Ordinance shall apply.
- (3.) Constitution and jurisdiction of the different Courts.
- (4.) Offences against slave-dealing.
- (5.) Customs, house tax, store licence and spirit licence.
- (6.) Miscellaneous, which deals with recovery and application of taxes, duties, penalties, arms and ammunition, deposition or banishment of chiefs, offences, concessions in the Protectorate, indemnity of the Governor and all officers. Counsel may only appear before the Court of District Commissioner and Native Chiefs, or the Court of Native Chiefs, on behalf of any plaintiff or defendant in a case involving the punishment of death. Counsel may, however, appear in any of the Courts of the Protectorate by leave of the District Commissioner in other cases.

Ordinance No. 35 of 1901. "The Freetown Waterworks Ordinance, 1901."—The Waterworks Ordinance is an Ordinance of 29 sections, dealing with the supply of water for public and private purposes. Section 4 provides for the borrowing of money by the Governor to be refunded by the Water Authority. The expenses incurred in the waterworks Trusts shall not exceed the sum of £31,500. The Ordinance also provides the various rights and duties of the Water Authority. This is a matter purely local in its dealing.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A) PRIMARY.

The system of education in the Colony is wholly denominational. There are no Government schools.

The principal denominations working in the Colony, and in whose hands is its educational welfare, are—the Church of England with 40 schools under its control, the Wesleyan with 20, the United Methodist Free Churches with 9, the Countess of Huntingdon's with 4, the Roman Catholic with 3, and another with 1. The number of schools thus connected is 77; these

receive grants-in-aid from the Government, regulated by an Education Ordinance and Rules under it drawn up by a Board of Education.

According to the latest returns (up to December 31, 1901), the number of children on the rolls of the inspected schools is 8,060, and the average attendance 5,764—about 72 per cent. of the roll number.

The enrolment of scholars does not increase with the growth of the population of the Colony, but, on the contrary, decreases, as the following table will show:—

Year.	Native Population of the Colony.	Enrolment of Scholars	Average Attendances.
1870... ..	42,000	6,000	5.519
1891... ..	74,611	8,526	5.944
1901... ..	76,162	8,060	5.764

Thus, in 1891, the enrolment and the average attendance were respectively 11.4 and 8 per cent. of the population, but, in 1901, 10.5 and 7.5 respectively. There is no upper limit to school age. The ordinance simply requires that a scholar shall not be under four years of age, and pupils are often found sixteen years and upwards.

According to the Census of 1891, the number of persons, male and female, from six to fifteen years of age, and therefore well within the ages of children that may be found at school, was 15,123. According to the Census of 1901, the number is 13,373.

Education is not compulsory. This Colony does not yet "bind herself by statute to secure for all the children whom her soil maintains, the rudiments of letters." The aborigines, to whose influx into the Colony from the Protectorate the increase of the population is largely due, have not yet learnt the nature of education to make them care to send their children to school to any large extent.

The following items are shown in comparison with those of last year:—

Year.	Number of Schools.	Roll Number.	Average Attendance.	Per cent. of Average Attendance to Roll Number.	Total Expenditure.	Total Grant-in-Aid.
1900 ...	76	7,870	5,661	71.9	£ 4,470	£ 1,393
1901 ...	77	8,060	5,764	71.5	£ 4,565	£ 1,459

From the above table it will be seen that the amount of grant-in-aid received from the Government is about one-third (rather less) of the total cost of the up-keep of the schools. The balance is provided from local sources by the religious bodies to which the schools belong. The amount of Government grant-in-aid is determined by the average attendance and the results of inspection of each school. The amount spent by Government last year for educational purposes was £3,500.

School fees are charged in all the schools, the usual rate of payment being one penny per week for each child, or fourpence per month.

The amount of fees collected in 1900 was £853 12s. 4d., and in 1901 £883 5s. 2d., being for each year about 3s. for each unit of average attendance.

(B) SECONDARY.

The following are the High Schools providing secondary education for boys and girls, all of which belong either to some religious body or to private individuals:—

School.	Religious body with which connected.	Roll Number (December 31st, 1901.)		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Grammar School ...	Church Missionary Society.	163		163
		*148		*148
High School ...	Wesleyan ...	200		200
		*179		*179
Educational Institute (Proprietary.)	—	101		101
		*90		*90
Annie Walsh Memorial	Church Missionary Society.		130	130
			*115	*115
Female Educational Institute.	Wesleyan ...		50	50
			*29	*29
St. Joseph's ...	Roman Catholic		163	163
			*101	*101
		464	343	807
		*417	*245	*652

* The figures with an asterisk denote the average attendance.

Besides the above, Fourah Bay College, which is affiliated with Durham University, offers facilities to young men desirous of obtaining the B.A. degree and the Licence in Theology. The number of the students, all told, is 40.

TRAINING COLLEGE.

Provision was made in the "Education Rules, 1899," by which any of the religious denominations possessing facilities for doing so, might, subject to the approval of the Government, undertake the theoretical and practical training of teachers of elementary schools. Fourah Bay College, established by the Church Missionary Society is the institution that has, at present, been approved. A capitation grant, depending to a small extent on the result of examination, is given for each student in training, a minimum sum being guaranteed for the up-keep of the department.

Candidates for admission are pupil teachers of three years' standing, or other persons approved by the Board of Education.

The period of training is two years or more. Teachers who succeed at the final certificate examination are entitled to a certificate grant of £15 per annum to be paid by the Government in addition to the salaries received from their denomination. The difficulty attending this arrangement is to get pupils of the elementary schools willing to serve as pupil teachers for three years or more before entering for training. To obviate this difficulty a modification may have to be made by the Board of Education.

(C) TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

There is a Diocesan Technical School, open to pupils of all denominations, receiving an annual grant-in-aid from the Government. It is not largely patronised as yet, though it has been established for nearly eight years, and, in a limited way, has done good work. It is being re-organised with a view to broadening the management and widening the scope of its work.

(D) MOHAMMEDAN.

During the year a Department of Mohammedan Education for the Colony of Sierra Leone and its Protectorate has been established. Four schools are now in operation in Freetown under the new department. In the Colony the Moslems are earnestly availing themselves of these educational facilities specially provided for them. At this stage of the enterprise, however, suitable teachers are the pressing need—a desideratum which, for the present, prevents the extension of the enterprise into the Protectorate. The children are now being taught by Christian teachers, an arrangement which is not regarded as entirely satisfactory. Efforts are being directed to the training of Mohammedan teachers. The Mohammedan question is regarded by the Government as one of the most important in the future of West and Central Africa. If Islam is properly understood,

if its youth, inoculated with British civilisation and British ideas, are utilised by British administrators and merchants, it will give to England a wider and more permanent influence upon the millions of the Soudan than can possibly be wielded by any other agency.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A) HOSPITALS.

Colonial Hospital, Freetown.

Year.	Number Refused Admission for want of Room, &c.	In-door Patients.								Out-door Patients.		
		Number Treated.	Cured.	Relieved.	Not Relieved.	Deaths and Percentage to Cases.	In Hospital at End of Year.	Operations.	Deaths—Persons Operated on and Percentage.	Number of Poor Treated.	Casualties Attended to.	Prescriptions Dispensed.
1901...	—	1,265	781	196	117	90	57	311	—	24,649	817	12,139

The above table shows a total of 1,265 intern cases treated during the year; namely 947 males, 318 females, and 114 deaths, giving a death-rate of 90 per 1,000.

In the hospital at the end of the year there were 67 cases remaining.

Many of the cases were admitted in a moribund condition; of the 114 deaths, 44 occurred within 72 hours after admission.

The following table shows the principal diseases treated during the year 1901:—

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Tubercle	24	10	
Malarial Fever	150	6	
Venereal	54	2	
Ulcers	173	3	
Rheumatism	156	4	
Bronchitis	47	7	
Pneumonia... ..	38	17	

Ulcers, as usual, give the greatest number, 173; rheumatism comes next with a total number of 156; bronchitis and pneumonia furnish 47 and 38 cases, respectively. The fact that pneumonia is a very fatal disease amongst natives is exemplified here. Seventeen deaths have occurred out of a total number of 38 cases treated. Thirty-four major and 277 minor operations were performed without deaths.

The following is the financial statement of the Colonial Medical Department during the year 1901:—

Year.	Daily Number of Beds.	Gross Expenditure for the Year.	Amount of Dues Paid into Treasury.	Actual Expenditure after Deducting Amounts passed to credit of Hospital.	Annual Cost of Each Patient.	Daily Cost of Patient Treated.	Number of Patients Treated.	Average Cost of each Patient per annum after deducting Amounts passed to Credit of Hospital.
1901	66	£ s. d. 4,724 3 2	£ s. d. 1,057 4 7	£ s. d. 3,666 18 7	£ s. d. 12 18 6½	d. 8½	1,265	—

The daily average and number of beds occupied during the year is 66.

The following table shows the number of obstetric cases treated during the year 1901:—

Obstetric Ward.

Year.	Number Admitted.	Patients.		Infant.		Pupil Nurses.	
		Number of Deaths.	Number of Operations.	Number of Births.	Number of Still-born.	Entered.	Completed Terms.
1901 ...	38	3	1	10	24	—	—

The above table shows the number of admissions into the Obstetric Ward. The average age of patients admitted is between 14 and 40 years; the majority is about 18 years.

(B) ASYLUMS.

(1) *Lunatic Asylum.*

The following table shows the number of lunatics treated in the hospital at Kissy during the year 1901:—

Year.	Number of Persons under Treatment during the Year.	Number in Asylum on the 1st Jan., 1901.	Average Number Resident.	Admitted during the Year.	Discharged.	Recovered.	Dead.
1901.	126	109	115	17	6	6	12

One hundred and twenty-six patients were in the asylum during the year—81 males and 45 females. Of these, 6 recovered sufficiently to be discharged and 12 died; of the latter, 4 were very old and had been in the asylum for an aggregate period of 102 years.

The lunatics are employed in gardening, and there is no doubt that the work in the garden has proved of great benefit in maintaining good health amongst the patients thus employed, by keeping them in useful employment while formerly they were on the sick list frequently. This at present is not the case.

(2) INCURABLE DISEASE HOSPITAL.

The following table shows the total number of patients treated in the Incurable Disease Hospital at Kissy during the year 1901:—

Year.	Remaining in Hospital at the Beginning of the Year.	Admissions.	Discharged and Absconded.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 100.	Remaining at End of Year.	Re-admission of Lepers.
1901.	97	160	118	56	25.68	83	4

Included in the above are 14 persons under treatment for leprosy. In the Colony proper this disease is not common, the

majority of the cases having come from the hinterland and from other West African Colonies.

Here the natives adopt methods of isolation, and treat their cases with native remedies.

(C) POOR HOUSES.

(D) REFORMATORIES.

There are neither Poor houses nor reformatories in the Colony. There is decidedly no need for the former and very little necessity for the latter.

(E) SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits for the year amounted to £24,475 6s. 5½d.; the withdrawals, including interest, to £25,647 13s. 9½d. The interest taken out of the General Revenue of the Colony and credited to depositors amounts £1,152 14s. 11d. As compared with 1900, there is a decrease in deposits, including interest credited, of £159 12s. 8½d.

The following table shows the amount of deposits at the principal stations in the Colony and Protectorate for the last two years:—

Station.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Freetown ...	23,516 16 8½	22,627 2 3½	—	889 14 5
Bonthe ...	1,090 15 9	1,825 14 2	734 18 5	—
Waterloo ...	—	22 10 0	22 10 0	—

The Savings Bank at Waterloo was only opened on November 1.

There was an increase of withdrawals in the year under review as compared with 1900 of £954 0s. 3½d.

Year.	From Accounts under £5.	From £5 and under £10.	From £10 and under £20.	From £20 and under £50.	From £50 and under £100.	From £100 and under £200.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1899 ...	599	274	227	250	153	5	1,508
1900 ...	637	246	227	242	144	18	1,514
1901 ...	720	278	246	237	96	26	1,603

The following comparative statement shows the transactions of the Savings Bank for the last five years:—

Year.	Balance.	Deposits.	Interest Due on Deposits.	Total.	Amount Withdrawn.	Interest Paid on Withdrawals.	Total.	Balance.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897	39,425 18 0	17,625 8 5	934 18 0	57,986 4 5	17,525 1 6½	Included in Amt. Withdrawn. 83 17 1	17,525 1 6½	40,461 2 10½
1898	40,461 2 10½	23,273 1 0	987 5 0	64,721 8 10½	21,417 16 0	97 19 7	21,417 16 0	43,303 12 10½
1899	43,303 12 10½	25,097 9 1½	1,077 8 4	69,478 10 4	21,561 9 4	88 2 1	21,648 6 5	47,830 3 11
1900	47,830 3 11	24,667 19 9½	1,120 1 7½	73,618 5 4	24,595 13 11		24,693 13 6	48,924 11 10
1901	48,924 11 10	24,475 6 5½	1,152 14 11	74,552 13 2½	26,559 11 8½		26,647 13 9	48,904 19 5

The revenue of the Savings Bank from investments for the year 1901 amounted to £1,650 5s. 10d., and the total expenditure to £1,417 14s. 11d.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A) POLICE.

The authorised strength of the Police Force is three officers and 266 rank and file; this includes 11 Water Police. Of this number, three officers and 169 men are stationed at Freetown, two sergeants and 41 constables in the Sherbro District, and the remainder distributed in the smaller districts. No Police are stationed in the Protectorate.

In Freetown alone the Police have to exercise supervision over an area of 1,894 acres, containing about 370 streets with a population of over 32,000 inhabitants.

The behaviour of the men has been very good, the few offences being trifling breaches of discipline.

(B) CRIMINAL.

The following are the statistics of crime for the last five years:—

	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
1. Offences against the person.	4	1	5	7	50	2	1	5	1	36
2. Offences against property.	238	195	226	109	39	145	120	133	98	13
3. Other offences ...	154	171	270	98	156	119	131	205	93	116
Total ...	396	367	501	214	245	266	252	343	192	165
1. Murder, including man-slaughter, assault.	74	79	106	53	10	54	61	76	35	6
2. Burglary and house-breaking.	20	9	3	2	—	16	7	3	2	—
3. Arson ...	1	1	1	—	*1	—	1	—	—	—
Total ...	95	89	110	55	11	70	69	79	37	6

* Prisoner insane.

(C) PRISONS.

The daily average of prisoners in custody during the year 1901 was 169 as compared with 171 the previous year, and 185 in 1899.

The following table shows the number of convictions for the last five years:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Total.
1897	441	30	8	479
1898	633	21	5	659
1899	634	29	15	678
1900	414	31	8	453
1901	559	13	5	677

There was one escape during the year, and the man was recaptured, as compared with four in 1900.

The behaviour of the prisoners is reported good; whereas in 1899 there were 485 cases of breaches of prison discipline dealt with, in 1901 the number has been reduced to 127. There has also been a great reduction in the number of floggings, as the following table proves:—

Year.	Number of Floggings.
1897	20
1898	9
1899	3
1900	1
1901	Nil.

The two principal offences are disobedience of orders and having prohibited articles on their person, such as snuff and tobacco.

The health of the prisoners is excellent; in 1899 the death-rate was 15, whereas in 1900 and 1901 it was 7 for each year.

The outside prison gangs are used for labour in connection with the Public Works, and collecting stones from the quarries; those prisoners who are detained within the walls are employed at tailoring, shoe-making, basket-making, and carpentering.

The prison is not self-supporting, although by the prison labour which is credited the cost is considerably reduced. The following table gives the expenditure and the earnings for the last five years:—

Year.	Expenditure.	Earnings.	Deficit.
	£	£	£
1897... ..	3,355	1,440	1,915
1898... ..	4,403	1,845	2,558
1899... ..	4,513	2,223	2,290
1900... ..	3,550	1,739	1,811
1901... ..	3 649	1,756	1,893

It is to be regretted that the Association Ward system is in force; and, unfortunately, owing to the large demands on the public finances it is impossible at present to undertake the work of erecting a new building which would have the advantage of the solitary cell system.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A) POPULATION.

The Census was taken during the year under review, and the population of the whole Colony consisted of 41,856 males and 34,799 females, making a grand total of 76,655 persons; this shows an increase of 1,820 from the date of the Census Return of 1891.

The following table, showing the general population of the Colony with sexes and ages taken from the Census return, will be of interest:—

Ages.			Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	...	...	521	533	1,054
1 "	...	...	382	490	872
2 years	...	...	474	380	854
3 "	...	...	698	653	1,351
4 "	...	...	635	539	1,174
5 "	...	...	651	794	1,445
From 6 to 10 years	...	...	2,979	3,016	5,995
" 11 " 15	...	...	3,998	3,380	7,378
" 16 " 20	...	...	4,440	3,734	8,174
" 21 " 25	...	...	5,090	3,770	8,860
" 26 " 30	...	...	6,073	4,096	10,169
" 31 " 35	...	...	3,116	2,151	5,267
" 36 " 40	...	...	4,510	3,157	7,667
" 41 " 45	...	...	1,966	1,508	3,474
" 46 " 50	...	...	2,248	2,017	4,265
" 51 " 55	...	...	955	1,039	1,994
" 56 " 60	...	...	1,147	1,229	2,376
" 61 " 65	...	...	478	578	1,056
" 66 " 70	...	...	402	583	985
" 71 " 75	...	...	235	229	464
" 76 " 80	...	...	220	316	536
" 81 " 85	...	...	147	212	359
" 86 " 90	...	...	90	173	263
" 91 " 95	...	...	76	39	115
" 96 " 100	...	...	34	50	84
Upwards of 100	...	...	6	11	17
Ages not stated	...	...	285	122	407
Total ...			41,856	34,799	76,655

(B) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The number of deaths registered was 1,851 (1,042 males and 809 females); this gives a death-rate of 23·46 per thousand. The number of births was 1,334, a rate of 17·67.

The following table gives a comparative statement of the births and deaths for the last five years :—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Births in Excess.	Deaths in Excess.
1897	1,645	1,734	—	91
1898	1,859	1,788	174	—
1899	1,494	1,768	—	274
1900	1,342	1,716	—	374
1901	1,334	1,851	—	517

The infantile mortality is exceptionally high. In Freetown alone it is as high as 578·8 per thousand births. A large number of these deaths occur in connection with labour, and the Government are now erecting a Maternity Ward in the Colonial Hospital, and steps are being taken to establish a Maternity Home with the idea of training and registering midwives. In fact every endeavour will be undertaken by the Government to put a stop to the present heavy loss of life at birth.

The following comparative statement gives the infantile mortality for the last five years in Freetown :—

Year.	Total Deaths under one Year.	Deaths under one Week.	Deaths within 24 Hours.	Total Births.	Still-births.	Infantile Mortality.
1897	235	104	52	587	37	400·8
1898	251	118	69	668	40	375·7
1899	242	94	58	565	26	428·3
1900	225	82	45	462	27	487·01
1901	235	91	48	417	24	575·8

The child mortality, *i.e.*, deaths up to the age of five years in Freetown is high as will be seen from the following comparative table :—

Year.	Total Deaths.	Deaths below five Years.	Percentage of Deaths below five Years to Total Deaths.	Death rate per 1000 living under five Years.
1897	871	296	33·86	114·7
1898	869	310	35·67	120·20
1899	923	296	32·07	114·7
1900	895	295	32·96	114·38
1901	959	307	32·01	119·03

Of the European death-rate it is very difficult to give accurate information so far as the Protectorate is concerned, as many come and go after very short periods of residence, so that it would be impossible to estimate the European population.

As regards Freetown itself, the approximate population of Europeans could be put at 350, and this number would not be excessive. The deaths among Europeans in 1901 amounted to 10 as compared with 19 in the previous year.

The city and Colony during the year have been comparatively free from small-pox, the small number of cases that did occur were introduced from the Protectorate, or from steamers coming from the coast. Twenty-two patients were admitted to the Small-pox Hospital, and during the year eleven deaths occurred.

(C) SANITATION.

The sanitary work of the city of Freetown has been done by the Sanitary Department of the City Council under the supervision of Dr. Prout, the principal Medical Officer, and I cannot do better than quote from his annual report:—

“The method of sewage disposal in use in the town is the abominable cesspit system. The contamination of the subsoil which results is most prejudicial to health, and until the matter is seriously grappled with we cannot expect to see any marked improvement in the death-rate. The question of the surface drainage of the town is now, I am glad to say, being systematically taken in hand, and it is proposed to overtake the drainage of a certain part of the town each year until all is completed. This, by preventing collections of water and thus diminishing the number of breeding places of mosquitoes, will do much eventually to reduce the prevalence of malaria, and consequently to improve the death-rate, especially among children. In the early part of the year an expedition organised by the Liverpool Tropical School of Medicine, under the superintendence of Major Ross, assisted by Dr. Logan Taylor, arrived in Freetown with the object of making a systematic attempt to reduce the number of mosquitoes in the city. One of the most unhealthy parts of the town, namely Grassfields, was selected for the experiment, and the methods employed were mainly three. First, the clearing out of the gutters along the streets, and the construction of temporary channels where none existed previously, so as to allow of the surface water being rapidly carried off; the filling up of depressions with stones, earth and cement, so as to prevent the formation of mosquito breeding puddles; and third, the removal of all loose receptacles such as broken bottles, old tins, etc., in which collections of water might lodge and larvæ breed. The work has been energetically carried out by Dr. Logan Taylor, and no doubt with benefit to the cleanliness of the town. It is too soon to speak as to the results, and rash conclusions one way or the other at this stage are to be deprecated, for after such a

short period it is naturally impossible to expect that there can be any marked effect on the health of the town. The work is however proceeding on the right lines, and with the system of permanent surface drainage which the Governor has inaugurated, we have every right to expect at no distant date a diminution in the prevalence of malaria. The Colony owes a great debt of gratitude to Major Ross for the interest he has taken in the work and the energy he has thrown into it."

(D) CLIMATE.

No part of West Africa up to the present time has earned the right to be termed a health resort, and Sierra Leone is no exception. At the same time there are indications that the climate is not looked upon as being quite as bad as it was in former years; this no doubt is attributable to the improvement of living, better sanitation, and precautionary measures now taken which formerly were ignored. So long as the mercantile community and Colonial officials continue to live in the city of Freetown, surrounded by native houses and insanitary conditions, there will not be that increased improvement in the health of the Europeans which should be expected. It is hard to conceive, considering the natural advantages Sierra Leone possesses in having high hills from 800 to 1,500 feet all round, why the short-sighted policy of residing in the flat and low-lying part of the town has been allowed to continue. The military have lost no time in grasping the advantages of hill residences, and the consequence is that the best sites have been acquired by the War Office for the erection of barracks, with the result that far better health is enjoyed by the military than those less fortunate Europeans residing in the low-lying city of Freetown. Given good residences on high land with the usual precautions as to the mode of living, there is no reason why the health of the Europeans in this Colony should not be as good as in some other Colonies off the West Coast of Africa.

RAINFALL.

The following table gives the rainfall of Sierra Leone for the last five years:—

Year.				Inches.
1897	...	...	...	164·31
1898	...	...	...	144·64
1899	...	...	...	146·63
1900	...	...	...	175·43
1901	...	...	...	198·82

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A) POSTAL.

The following comparative table shows the working of the Postal Department during the years 1900 and 1901 :—

Year.	Number of Letters Posted.	Number of Registered Articles dealt with.	Amount of Money Order Transactions with Great Britain.	Amount of Money Order Transactions with other British Colonies.	Amount of Money Order Transactions with Foreign Countries.	Total Amount of Money Order Transactions.	Number of Parcels.
1900	520,643	27,370	£ 18,971 16 5	£ 17,433 17 0	£ 1,284 0 4	£ 37,689 13 9	10,144
1901	551,017	39,505	£ 17,541 14 9	£ 15,914 16 8	£ 1,529 1 0	£ 34,985 12 5	10,875
Increase	30,374	12,135	— 1,430 1 8	— 1,519 0 4	245 0 8	— 2,704 1 4	731
Decrease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following Postal articles and parcels passed between the Colony and the United Kingdom during the year under review:—

Description.	Received.	Despatched.	Total.
Letters	73,063	80,103	153,166
Postcards	2,928	8,109	11,037
Newspapers and Book-packets ...	93,836	9,000	102,836
Parcels	5,411	1,358	6,769
Total	175,238	98,570	273,808

The following is a return of what passed between the Colony and other West African Colonies and foreign countries:—

Description.	Received.	Despatched.	Total.
Letters	70,077	63,460	133,537
Postcards	1,230	760	990
Newspapers and Book-packets ...	8,283	14,589	22,872
Parcels	1,561	1,033	2,594
Total	81,151	79,842	160,993

Of the 6,972 parcels received, 340 were insured; and of the 2,391 despatched, 190 were insured.

The total value of the parcels dealt with during the year amounted to £11,623 17s. 4d.

The total Postal revenue for the year 1901 was £6,983 13s. 11d. as compared with £5,937 13s. 8d. in 1900. The total expenditure in 1901 was £5,991 5s. 6d., and that of the previous year £5,551 9s. 11d.

MONEY ORDERS.

10,107 money orders of a total value of £40,640 16s. 3d. were dealt with during the year.

Of these, 8,029, valued at £32,209 13s. 2d., were issued within the Colony, and 2,078, valued at £8,431 3s. 1d., were received from beyond the limits of the Colony.

(B) TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

The only telegraph line in the Colony is that which follows the railway. On 31st December, 1901, there were 76 miles of telegraph line laid and being worked, and there were 13 stations. During the year 233 Government messages were sent, and 7,222

by the general public. The charge is 6*d.* for twelve words, and $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* for every additional word; the revenue earned for the year amounted to £249. The telephone system in the Colony is very small and only connects the different military offices around Freetown and is under the control of the War Department, and, with the exception of the connection between Government House and the Secretariat, is only used by the military; none of the other Government offices or mercantile firms derive any benefit from it.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Sierra Leone is an important coaling station, and possesses an excellent anchorage. It is strongly fortified, and has a garrison of 48 European officers and 2,121 non-commissioned officers and men. In this number is included a European battery of Garrison Artillery, the Native Artillery, Native Engineers, one battalion of the West India Regiment, the West African Regiment and different units such as Royal Engineers, Medical Staff, and Army Service Corps, etc. The West African Regiment is recruited from the tribes in the Colony and Protectorate, but officered by Europeans seconded from different regiments of the Regular Army and Militia. The cost of the above force is paid from Imperial funds, although an allowance is granted by the Colonial Government in compensation of Customs duties, which amounted in 1901 to £1,455.

There are no Militia or Volunteers in the Colony.

There is a battalion of the West African Frontier Force stationed in the Colony; this is a purely Colonial military force, and all expenses connected with it are paid by the Colony; the total cost during the year under review amounted to £23,707. The strength of the battalion at the close of the year was 630 of all ranks. The men are recruited from the Protectorate and make excellent fighting material. The officers are seconded for service from the Regular Army and Militia. The force is stationed in the different districts of the Protectorate, and their presence is not only a guarantee of security to the inhabitants but also a great safeguard against lawlessness, oppression, and the traffic in slaves.

During the year Brigadier-General Kemball, D.S.O., R.A., was appointed Inspector-General West African Frontier Force. This is a new appointment and an excellent one, which cannot but have most beneficial results on the efficiency of the force.

X.—RAILWAY.

(A) OPEN LINES.

On 31st December, 1901, 75½ miles of railway were open for traffic, as compared with 55½ miles in 1900.

The following table will show the improvement in the traffic during the second year of the opening of the railway:—

Year.			Passengers.	Goods.	Construction materials.	Total.
			£	£	£	£
1900	...	...	7,376	705	2,263	10,345
1901	...	...	10,015	1,507	6,235	17,757

There were 13 stations opened during 1901 as compared with 11 in the previous year. The cost of working the open lines in 1900 amounted to £14,284, and in 1901 to £18,518. The working of the line is progressing favourably, and there is every indication that the people are already beginning to feel its benefit, and that it will be the means of bringing considerably more produce to the port of the Colony than was possible previously.

(B) CONSTRUCTION.

The construction of the extension of the Sierra Leone railway has proceeded steadily through the year. On the 1st of January, 1901, the track was laid 4½ miles beyond Rotifunk, and on the 31st of December, 1901, it reached 44 miles. The building of this 39½ miles of railway necessitated the moving of 320,000 cubic yards of earth, and the getting and spreading of 27,000 cubic yards of ballast, the bridging over of rivers and swamps with 18 timber bridges of a total length of 1,450 feet, and the construction of 78 culverts formed with steel or earthenware pipes, varying in diameter from 18 inches to 4 feet. Station buildings, consisting of dwelling-houses and offices, have been erected at Boia and Moyamba. A single telegraph wire attached to iron poles has been put up to the forty-ninth mile. The total weight of construction material received at Rotifunk from Freetown was 6,766 tons, and, of this, 4,963 tons were forwarded on to railhead. The transport of the latter entailed a total train mileage of 17,449 miles during the year. The scarcity of labour greatly interfered with the progress of the work during the months of February, March, April, May, and June. During the last four months of the year the supply of

labour was greater than the requirements. The average number of labourers employed daily during each month was as follows:—

Month.	No.	Month.	No.
January	1,256	July	2,652
February	866	August	2,939
March	1,450	September	3,542
April	2,290	October	3,878
May	1,336	November	4,865
June	1,284	December	5,205

(C) PROPOSED.

A survey for a mountain railway has been made during the year with the idea of running a railway from Freetown to Wilberforce, a distance of five miles. The site of the terminus, which was chosen by Sir Charles King-Harman, is at a height of 900 feet. It is in every way the most suitable site for residences, the altitude should prove conducive to health and it commands most lovely views. It is stated to be removed from the zone of the anopheles, water is easily obtainable, and it has the further greater advantage of being within easy reach of the city of Freetown.

XI.—CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

The following changes have taken place during the year in the Establishment:—

Mr. Stallard, the Chief Justice, has retired on pension, and Mr. P. Crampton Smyly, the Attorney-General of the Colony, has been appointed to succeed him. Colonel J. C. Gore, the Colonial Secretary, has been transferred to Cyprus as Receiver-General, and Mr. G. B. Haddon-Smith, Chief Assistant Colonial Secretary, Gold Coast Colony, appointed to succeed him. Mr. A. Hudson, Solicitor-General, has been promoted to the post of Attorney-General. Major J. E. C. Blakeney has been appointed Major Commanding, Sierra Leone Battalion, West African Frontier Force.

XII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

During the year the Governor of the Colony (Sir Charles King-Harman) made tours of inspection throughout the Colony and Protectorate. He found large tracts of land untouched, and reports that the whole country from an agricultural point of view is capable of great development. In fact, the condition of the people in one part of the Colony is very aptly described by him as follows:—"The inhabitants appeared to be sufficiently provided with the necessaries of life to allow them, for the most part, to loll in their hammocks all day, and to dance and sing all night. I saw absolutely no sign of either poverty or discontent"; and that is the satisfactory condition throughout the Protectorate.

The Governor was received everywhere most cordially, and the various chiefs expressed "a unanimous and unbounded satisfaction both with the protection and security which they and their people now enjoy, and also with the manner in which the administration of the districts was carried out by Government officers."

The fear that existed with so many of the commercial community of this Colony as to the impossibility of collecting the house tax except at the point of the bayonet, or that the collection of it meant ruin to the trade of the Colony, has been dispelled. There is no difficulty in collecting the tax, the object and necessity of it are fully recognised by the people; and the insignificance of the amount to be paid in comparison with the benefits and improvements enjoyed are admitted on all sides. Where the trouble occasionally does arise is not in the amount demanded or collected by Government servants, but owing to the unscrupulous actions of some of the sub-chiefs who extort large sums from the unsophisticated native on the false statements that they are accredited collectors for the Government.

The tribes have now had the opportunity of rebuilding their towns and villages and re-planting their farms, which were destroyed and neglected owing to the rebellion. The people have regained confidence and the whole country is at rest, and there is every indication that there will be augmentation of revenue from an increase of imports. In every direction there are signs that the wealth of the country is growing and that there is a steady and normal progress. Means of transport, by means of the railway and better roads, have been improved and extended. Slavery is virtually defunct. It must not be lost sight of that the Protectorate has only within the last few years been rescued from a barbarous rule, with its consequences, stagnation and want of population.

Emigration is discouraged by the Government. The Protectorate needs population greatly, and every endeavour must be

made to prevent those who should work the soil and help to develop their own country from leaving it to seek work in the gold mines where, perhaps, the temporary high wages are the temptation.

During the first month of the year under review Sierra Leone, in common with other parts of the Empire, received the sad news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, a Sovereign whose life was the pride of her subjects and the honour of mankind. In no part of the great Empire was the painful news received with more genuine grief than by the loyal subjects of this Colony and Protectorate.

G. B. HADDON-SMITH,

Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Sierra Leone,

15th July, 1902.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 330.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 304.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1901.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
306	Gold Coast	1899
307	Ceylon	"
308	Leeward Islands	"
309	St. Helena	"
310	British Honduras	"
311	St. Lucia... ..	1899-1900
312	St. Vincent	1899
313	Basutoland	"
314	Hong Kong	1899-1900
315	Southern Nigeria	"
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899-1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899-1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda... ..	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados	"
327	Bahamas... ..	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla... ..	Vital Statistics, 1898
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.

No. 330.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

STRAITS
SETTLE-
MENTS,
1900.
—

(For Report for 1899, see No. 304.)

ACTING GOVERNOR SIR F. A. SWETTENHAM to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Singapore,
9th July, 1901.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward copies of the Report on the
Straits Settlements for the year 1900.

I have, &c.,

F. A. SWETTENHAM,
Acting Governor.

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REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1900.

FINANCIAL.

The Revenue for 1900 amounted to \$5,386,927, the three Settlements contributing as follows:—

Settlement.				Amount.
				\$
Singapore	...	...	...	3,244,431
Penang	...	...	...	1,736,130
Malacca	...	...	...	406,366

There was an increase of \$186,901 as compared with the Revenue for 1899 and of \$315,645 as compared with that for 1898.

The principal increases were under Stamps \$90,418, Special Receipts \$58,001, Port and Harbour Dues, \$15,939, Fines, Forfeitures and Fees of Court \$15,660, Fees of Office \$14,677, Postage \$12,508, Reimbursements \$12,298, District Collections \$11,603.

Under Special Receipts is included the refund of the Government share of contribution towards the Permanent Jubilee Memorial. There was an advance of \$7,270 under "Miscellaneous Receipts."

There were decreases under the heads of "Interest" and "Land Sales," amounting to \$28,631 and \$23,507 respectively. The former may be attributed to the interest on the Loans to Native States having been paid up in 1899. There was a smaller value of land sold during the year under review.

The Expenditure for the year was \$6,037,084, as compared with \$5,060,523 in 1899 and \$4,587,366 in 1898.

As compared with 1899 the Expenditure shews an increase of \$976,561, the principal item being under Works and Building, Special Services \$925,543. This increase is due to two large works, viz.:—The Singapore-Kranji Railway and Penang Pier, which were well in hand during the year. There were also some minor increases, \$29,976 under Expenditure under "The Volunteer Ordinance," due to the forming of the Volunteer Rifle Corps at Singapore and Penang; \$24,188 under Interest,

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The average Bank Note Circulation of the Colony for the year was \$6,713,133, as compared with \$8,082,209 in 1899. The falling off is due principally to the reduction by the Hong-kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation of the amount of its local issue.

The amount of Government Currency Notes in circulation on the tenth of each month (when statistics are published) was:—

Month.				Amount.
				\$
January	...	...	...	4,165,000
February	...	...	...	4,875,000
March	...	...	...	5,025,000
April	...	...	...	5,300,000
May	...	...	...	5,300,000
June	...	...	...	5,300,000
July	...	...	...	5,300,000
August	...	...	...	5,500,000
September	...	...	...	5,660,000
October	...	...	...	5,885,000
November	...	...	...	5,725,000
December	...	...	...	5,928,000

MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to \$1,684,149, and their Expenditure, including a sum of \$138,260 expended on Loan Works in Singapore, to \$1,737,962.

TRADE.

The year 1900 was one of high prices in both manufactured goods and raw materials, but in the closing months the fall at home in the price of cotton and iron tended to a reduction in the former class.

The China War had a disturbing influence on Trade, and other causes, such as the prevalence of epidemic diseases and consequent traffic restrictions, also contributed to curtail business.

Trade with countries having a gold standard increased by 17%, and with silver countries by 5½%, but included in the former class are places under Dutch rule, where silver dollars are for all purposes the only medium of exchange.

Freights are still controlled by the Shipping Conference, and during the year frequent alterations of rates have taken place. New York tin importers pay 15/- a ton, compared with 27/6 paid by the Liverpool consignee,—a distinct advantage to the American Tin-plate maker over his Welsh rivals. Meanwhile it is reported that Macassar and Java are receiving cargo formerly sent to Singapore.

The growing influence of Germany as an oversea carrying power in these waters is more marked than ever, and this result is largely due to the tactics of the Shipping Conference, who, not content with ousting British tramp steamers from these seas, now notify that "Shippers are warned that shipments by sailer may be prohibited (except to Marseilles) to all Conference supporters."

In connection with this prohibition claim it may be noted that 13 sailing vessels cleared from Singapore with cargoes in 1900, of which 2 only were for Marseilles.

The aggregate Trade for the last five years—Inter-Settlement Trade excluded—shews as follows:—

(,000 omitted.)

—	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Merchandise ...	328,065	348,852	398,052	462,136	519,483
Treasure ...	46,999	62,515	62,367	60,854	57,225
Total ...	375,064	411,367	460,419	522,990	576,708

The increase in Merchandise is thus about 12½% in value.

IMPORTS.

The value of Imports of Merchandise increased by over 33½ million dollars, or over 13½%, the total amounting to nearly 279½ million dollars, or £28½ million sterling.

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Under Foodstuffs,—Opium, Rice, and Sugar shew enormous increases, with smaller advances in Coffee and Pepper, followed by Tobacco, Medicines, Lard, and Fish.

Almost without exception the items forming this class yield substantial increases.

Of Raw Materials treated as Imports, Coal and Petroleum increased in value by 2 million dollars each, followed by Timber with over $\frac{1}{2}$ of a million increase.

In the Textile Class, Cotton Piece Goods imported increased by $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, Sarongs by nearly as much, Gunnies by over $1\frac{1}{2}$ million, and Silk Piece Goods by over $\frac{1}{2}$ a million. Yarns and Sewing Thread both shew a decrease, especially the former.

Imports of Manufactured Metals yielded an increase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars over the whole class, of which Machinery accounted for nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ a million dollars, Hardware and Ironware for over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million, and Nails for $\frac{1}{2}$ of a million, followed by Iron Bar and Steel with an increase of about \$150,000 each, and Tools, Tramway Materials, and Brassware with smaller increases. The decreases are most marked in Telegraph Materials, Cycles and Accessories, Zinc Sheathing, and Yellow Metal.

Miscellaneous Manufactured Goods imported increased by about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, of which Glassware and Matches each contributed over $\frac{1}{4}$ of a million, and Cement about a fourth of the same amount. Other principal increases are seen in Candles, Woodenware, Chinese Shoes, Japanware, Cabinetware, Lamps, Joss Sticks, Beads, Bamboo, and Rattanware.,

Declines are noticeable in Fancy Goods and Toys, Fireworks, Dynamite, Tanned Hides, Earthenware, and Oil Cakes, but the amount of reductions are nearly all between \$70,000 and \$100,000 only.

EXPORTS.

The value of Exports of Merchandise from the Colony increased by $23\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, or 11%, the total export trade in 1900 being nearly 240 million dollars or £24 $\frac{1}{4}$ million sterling.

Increases in Imports of Foodstuffs and Manufactured Goods are shewn more or less on the Export side.

Pepper, Coffee, and Sugar exported increased by over a million dollars each in value.

Nutmegs and Padi shewed decreases.

Raw Materials generally, not used as Foodstuffs, rose by nearly $6\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, of which Guttas accounted for over 4 million, Rattans for $2\frac{7}{10}$ million, Petroleum for $1\frac{1}{2}$ million, and Gambier for about $1\frac{3}{10}$ million, followed by Raw Hides,

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The enormous expansion in the Sumatra petroleum industry is worthy of note. No less than a quantity equal to over $1\frac{1}{2}$ million cases of 65 lbs. each was imported, representing two-thirds of the whole supply. Dutch Borneo, for the first time, figures in the returns as a supplier of this oil, having sent 132,000 cases. American and Russian Oils both declined, and Burma sent only 52,000 cases—less than half the previous year's supply.

The year was marked by unusually violent fluctuations in the Cotton trade, but the tendency was towards a higher level of prices, although these invariably lagged behind Manchester quotations, and, in the absence of margins, the process of buying in and replacement of stocks was considerably curtailed. Those who were fortunate in having stocks on hand had a successful year.

Nearly $5\frac{3}{4}$ million pieces of Cotton Piece Goods and $\frac{4}{10}$ of a million corges (one corge = 20 pieces) of Sarongs were imported, an increase of about 90,000 pieces and the same number of corges respectively. Of the total import of Piece Goods over 3 million pieces were declared as plain, $1\frac{1}{2}$ million as dyed, and over $\frac{1}{3}$ of a million as printed.

The United Kingdom supplied 73% of the total imports of Piece Goods in quantity, and 74% in value, shewing a decline of $2\frac{1}{2}$ % in quantity and 6% in value compared with 1899.

An increase from India of $\frac{1}{3}$ of a million pieces was observable.

The increase of 30% in the quantity of Sarongs imported was accompanied by an increase of 42% in value. The United Kingdom, although barely keeping her relative position when compared with the Continent, shews she has got a firm hold of a business so long monopolised by her rivals.

The trade in Dyed Yarns displays a decline of 38% in imports, the figures for Grey and Bleached Yarn remaining practically the same as in 1899.

The United Kingdom sent 3,350 bales less of Dyed, and over 1,000 bales less of Grey Yarn.

Silk Piece Goods imported record an advance of 70,000 pieces, chiefly from Hongkong and France.

Umbrellas again shew a large increase from France, amounting to \$135,000 on a total trade of \$300,000 in 1899.

Manufactured Metals fell considerably in price in the latter half of the year, leaving holders with large stocks of high priced goods, much of which had to be disposed of at an actual loss. This is especially seen in Wire Nails, Steel, and Corrugated Iron.

Of those metals whose quantities as well as values are declared, Tin Plates, Zinc Sheathing, and Yellow Metal alone shew declines.

The Continent of Europe has largely increased its hold in metals, having risen by 41%, while the United Kingdom, after the exclusion of Telegraph Materials, is found to have risen by 22%.

The United States of America has entered the market in competition with the Continent in supplying Wire Nails, and is steadily securing a hold in Machinery, Tools, and Hardware.

Hongkong is taking a front place in the Cement trade, and it is satisfactory to see attempts on the part of British merchants to regain their position from Continental importers.

In supplying Paints the United Kingdom well retained the premier position, but Germany takes first place in the export to the Colony of aniline Dyes.

In providing this market with Paper, Beads, Crockeryware, Clocks and Watches, Glassware and Lamps, the United Kingdom has to entirely give way to Continental manufacturers, but as regards Perfumery, Soap, Cycles, and Shoes, she takes front rank.

The average price of Coffee was \$2.40 per pikul higher than in 1899, but quotations weakened towards the close of the year, and the prospects of this industry are not promising.

The quantity exported increased by 57%, reaching over 7,300 tons.

Tapioca exports fell in quantity by over 16%, the total export figures amounting to a little over 43,000 tons. The declines were in the Flake and Flour varieties, Pearl Tapioca having an increased export.

Sagos exported declined by 475 tons on a total of about 43,000 tons.

The quantities of Spices sent out were, on the whole, well up to last year's figures.

Peppers increased by 1½%, Areca-nuts by 7½%, but Nutmegs, Mace, and Cloves fell slightly.

Tin exports recorded 48,000 tons, an increase of about 3,000, or 6%, although the anticipation was general that a considerable advance would take place. The local average price declared was \$74.90 per pikul, an increase of nearly \$2 on the 1899 average price. To the United Kingdom nearly 26,000 tons were sent, an increase of over 8,000 tons, and to the United States of America nearly 14,000 tons, a decrease of 5,500 tons.

Gambier exports fell by 3,500 tons on a total trade of over 50,000 tons in 1899. A gradual yearly decline is observable in the output since 1897.

Copra exports record the phenomenal decrease of over 20,700 tons on a total trade of nearly 61,000 tons. The Celebes alone account for more than a third of this decrease, and Dutch Borneo for about another third, but all sources of supply shew more

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or less marked decreases. To France alone the exports declined by nearly 27,000 tons. Prices altered little from those of the previous year.

Gutta of good quality increased its export figures by over 1,000 tons, but inferior kinds fell off by about the same amount. This low priced produce, chiefly Gutta Jelotong, is sent principally to the United Kingdom and the United States.

Borneo and India Rubber exports decreased by over 500 tons.

Gum Copal, Gum Benjamin, and Sticklac each shew increases.

The Rattan output increased by nearly 7,000 tons, the whole trade amounting to 37,000 tons.

Exports of Manufactured Goods reflect more or less the imports.

TRADE WITH PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES.

The United Kingdom imports increased by close on 5%, or by £135,000. This increase is chiefly apparent in greater values of Cotton Piece Goods and Sarongs, Machinery, Hardware, and Ironware, with other Metals generally, Coal, Cement, and Paper.

The decreases were few and unimportant, the largest being Telegraph Materials, which declined by £20,000.

Exports increased by nearly 30%, or by £1,360,000. In Tin alone an increase of over a million pounds is seen, and in Gutta of £375,000, followed by Hides and Gambier with increases of over £20,000 each, and by Rattans and Rice with smaller advances. A falling off in Pepper by £40,000 is followed by smaller declines in Rubbers, Nutmegs, Preserved Fruits, and Isinglass.

From the Continent of Europe imports increased by 23%, or £320,000, of which Germany contributed £170,000, Holland £53,000, France £30,000, Belgium £22,000, and Austria £20,000. From Germany, Apparel, Hosiery, and Smallwares, &c., account for over a third of the increase, but advances are also seen in the values of Hardware, Nails, Glassware, and Malt Liquors received. The only article of note having a decline was Dynamite.

Dutch supplies shew enhanced values in Cotton Piece Goods and Sarongs, Hardware, Railway and Tramway Materials. Gin alone exhibits a decline.

From France, Umbrellas, Brandy, and Silk Piece Goods give important advances.

Imports from Belgium were well distributed; but Earthenware shewed a decline.

Sugar from Austria accounted for three-fourths of the increase in this country's supplies, the Indian protective tariff against bounty-fed beet causing exporters to look round for other openings, but our close proximity to cane-producing countries offers little scope for enterprise here.

Matches from Denmark, Apparel from Spain, and Apparel and Sarongs from Italy shew increased values, but Dyed Yarns and Cottons from Italy decreased, as well as Petroleum from Russia.

Exports to the Continent of Europe decreased by 9%, or over £250,000.

To France alone the falling off was nearly £400,000, followed by Holland with a decrease of £80,000, and Austria and Denmark with small declines.

Russia took a value of nearly £95,000 more, Italy of £50,000 more, and Spain, Belgium, and Germany each of about £30,000 more.

To France, Copra fell off by £300,000 value, Tin by £125,000, and Borneo Rubber by nearly £20,000, followed by Gambier with a smaller decline.

Gutta to France increased by £35,000, White Pepper and Coffee by about £25,000 each, and Rattans by £9,000.

To Holland, Tin alone decreased by £60,000, and to Austria exports of Tin also fell, but Coffee and White Pepper slightly increased in value.

Rattans to Germany increased by £50,000, followed by Pepper and Copra, but there was an enormous decline in Gutta, followed by falls in Gambier and Tin.

Tin and Gambier increased to Belgium, and Copra declined.

Tin to Italy increased by £40,000, and Copra by about £10,000.

Enhanced values of Black Pepper, Copra, and Tin accounted for the increase to Russia.

To Spain, Copra and Black Pepper explain the cause of increase.

The practice of granting optional bills of lading, "London, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Swansea, New York," is extremely common, and in such cases the first port named is taken as the destination.

The imports from the United States increased by 32%, or £43,000.

Coal from America figures in the trade returns for the first time, and, combined with advances in the values of Lard, Lubricating Oil, and Metals generally, more than accounts for the increase. Petroleum imports fell off.

Exports decreased by 10%, or £295,000.

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The decline in Tin sent alone was £580,000, but Rattans increased by £120,000, Coffee by over £50,000, Gambier by nearly £40,000, Black Pepper by £30,000, and Tapioca Pearl, and Preserved Fruits each by £20,000.

From Netherlands India, imports increased by over 16%, or by £730,000.

Petroleum, Guttas, Sugar, Rattans, Pepper, Coffee, Tobacco, Tin Ore, Oils, Gambier, and produce generally yielded advances, but a heavy decline is seen in Copra received.

Exports increased by nearly 16%, or £604,000.

To Java alone an increase of £345,000 is noted, chiefly seen in Rice, Fish, and Gambier, and to a less extent in Petroleum, Matches, Sarongs, Oil Cakes; Yarn, &c.

To Sumatra, Cotton Piece Goods and Sarongs, with Rice, shew the most important increases. Opium alone had a decline. To Dutch Borneo, Cotton Piece Goods shewed an increase of £30,000, followed by Coco-nut Oil, Tramway Materials, Provisions, Biscuits, Petroleum, &c., with small increases.

To this country the value sent of Rice, Sarongs, and Hardware declined.

To other parts of the Dutch Indies, Opium, Cotton Piece Goods, Provisions, Rice, and Gambier, &c., shew advances.

British India and Burma sent to the Colony goods of an increased value of 21%, or £750,000. From Bombay, Grey Yarn and Piece Goods shew the increased imports.

Opium alone from Calcutta increased by over £300,000, and Gunnies by over £125,000.

Sarongs and Cottons from Madras increased by £145,000, and from Burma, Rice alone accounted for £140,000, followed by Tin and Bran with enhanced values, but declines are apparent in Raw Cotton, Petroleum, India Rubber, and Precious Stones received.

Exports increased by about 15%, or about £170,000.

To Bombay, Tin and Coffee rose, but the value of Rice and Areca-nuts sent decreased.

To Calcutta, Sugar, Gambier, Tin and Areca-nuts mark the chief advances.

To Burma, Sarongs, Teel Seeds, Raw Silk, Matches, Preserves, Provisions, Piece Goods, and Sugar shew increases, but a heavy decline in Salt Fish sent is recorded.

Imports from the East Malay Peninsula increased by £27,000, seen in greater values of Tin, Gutta, Cattle, Fish, and Padi received, but Tin Ore fell off in quantity.

The Imports from the Western States increased by £675,000, or 13%, of which Tin Ore alone yielded an enhanced value of £450,000, Tin £75,000, Black Pepper £70,000, Gambier £50,000, and Coffee £40,000.

White Pepper, Areca-nuts, and Rattans were the only declines worth noting.

Exports to the East Malay Peninsula decreased by £2,000, chiefly seen in Piece Goods, Opium, and Yarn sent, Rice alone shewing an increase.

To the West Malay Peninsula exports increased by over £390,000, or 19½%.

Rice sent out increased by £120,000, Opium by over £75,000, Provisions by £35,000, followed by Lard, Machinery, and Tobacco, with about £15,000 each.

The only decline of note was in the value of Kachang Oil sent.

Trade with Siam and the Siamese States increased in imports by about £28,000, and exports by above £88,000.

Imports of Rice rose by nearly £70,000, Cattle by £15,000, and Black Pepper by about £10,000, but Tin alone fell off by over £50,000 value and Fish by nearly £30,000.

Benares Opium sent increased by £56,000, and Petroleum, Areca-nuts, Sugar, and Sarongs by £15,000 each, but Cotton Piece Goods declined by nearly £25,000, Yarn by £10,000, Gunnies and Corrugated Iron by £6,000 each.

Imports from French Indo-China increased by 19½%, or £115,000, chiefly seen in enhanced value of Rice, Fish, Swine, and Raw Silk received, but Hides fell off in value.

Exports rose by £66,000, of which the value of Gunnies sent accounted for £57,000.

The Hongkong and China Trade increased in imports by 11%, and decreased in exports by 2%. Greater values of Medicines, Silk Piece Goods, Beans and Peas, and Opium, followed by Precious Stones, Fish, Cotton Piece Goods, Provisions, and Raw Silk account for the increased imports. Apparel, however, shewed a decline.

Rice, Timber, Precious Stones, Sugar Candy, Areca-nuts, Raw Cotton, Padi, and many other articles sent shew declines.

Tin, Opium, Sugar, Rattans, Beche-de-mer, and Planks record increases.

Japan Coal had an advance of £200,000 in value received out of a total increase in imports of £207,000, and of the increase of £100,000 in exports Petroleum alone accounted for £72,000, followed by Tin and Cardiff Coal.

From Australia a small decline is seen in imports, for which Coal and Sandalwood are responsible. Tin Ore and Wheat Flour received increased in value.

Exports to Australia increased by £15,000, chiefly seen in greater values of Rice, Tapioca, Pepper, and Preserved Fruits sent.

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GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON TRADE.

The tonnage of German shipping in these waters has enormously increased of late, and the Germans have principally benefited from the action of the Shipping Conference, which, by arbitrarily raising freights, has tended to drive trade to other neighbouring ports. Produce, for instance, is now shipped direct from Macassar which formerly found its way to Singapore. Of late years trade with the Philippines has declined, copra, coffee, and other produce being now shipped direct to Europe or America. There is still a considerable import of hides. It is impossible to say at present what effect the transfer of these islands from Spanish to American rule will have on the trade of this Colony.

From a Bangkok paper it appears that whereas formerly 80% of the shipping that entered that port was British, now Germany has the lead. Of the 440 steamers that entered the port in 1900, 44% were under the German flag, and 38% under the British. Of the total value of cargoes from foreign countries, 58% came by German vessels and 34% by British. Of the outward cargoes to foreign countries, 54% went in German, and 34% in British bottoms.

It is of the utmost importance that, in view of the increasing competition for the carrying trade in these waters, the Government should endeavour to increase the facilities of its ports and take every means in its power to foster trade. The Tanjong Pagar Dock Company has, by a large expenditure of capital, provided wharves and docks which have, until recent years, proved sufficient for the requirements of the Port; but it has become a matter for serious consideration whether the time has not come for the formation of a Harbour Trust.

The Tanjong Pagar Dock Company has secured a virtual monopoly of the Wharves and Docks at Singapore, and there is a danger lest the imposition of increased tariff charges for the immediate benefit of shareholders may tend to direct shipping to foreign Ports.

When the Steamer Pier at Penang is completed it is intended that a Harbour Board shall be vested with the management of the wharves and goods landing sheds.

Of late years considerable attention has been paid in England to the important question of supplying information for British Merchants at home as to the state of the Markets and the openings for commercial enterprise in the Colonies and elsewhere.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, which was opened in 1899, should be of great assistance in this matter.

The aims of this Office have recently been brought under the notice of the Chambers of Commerce in this Colony, and

it is to be hoped that these bodies will co-operate in carrying out these objects in the interests of British Trade.

It must be borne in mind, however, that these Chambers are in no sense British Chambers—foreign firms being largely represented—and also that the Straits Merchants are for the most part middlemen acting as Agents for Foreign as well as British Houses.

It can hardly be expected that foreigners will be disposed to assist in ousting their own manufactures from the Market.

It therefore is incumbent on the Government to use every means in its power to collect and place at the disposal of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade the fullest and latest information as to the conditions of the local Markets, the openings for new ventures, and the different classes of goods for which there is a demand.

With this object it is contemplated to charge a Government Officer, who is in a position to obtain trustworthy information in commercial matters, with the duty of receiving and answering enquiries addressed to him officially by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, or unofficially by Merchants and others who may seek advice direct.

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MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are practically no mines worked in the Colony, though deposits of tin exist in the Dindings territory and in Malacca. The rich deposits of the rapidly developing Federated Malay States attract all the most experienced miners.

The Colony has few manufactures, the prosperity of Singapore and Penang being due to their positions as collecting and distributing centres for the produce of the surrounding countries. Singapore, however, has at Pulau Brani the largest tin smelting works in the world.

Tin smelting works are also being erected at Butterworth, in Province Wellesley.

Large establishments for the tinning of pineapples exist in Singapore, where this industry first originated, and which is still the chief source of supply to the European and Australian markets.

A large Chinese Biscuit factory has been started, which turned out during the year 10,800 pikuls of Biscuits, and a total of 344,000 tins. An average of 70 workmen are employed.

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The fisheries of the Colony are very rich and give occupation to a large number of people. Most of the fish caught near Singapore and Penang is consumed fresh. That caught at the Dindings is salted for consumption in Penang and Perak. In both Penang and Malacca large quantities of a species of shrimp are manufactured into "belachan," a favourite native condiment for eating with curry.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

Coco-nuts are very widely grown throughout the Colony, the largest plantations existing in Penang and Province Wellesley.

Singapore is not an agricultural Settlement, but Coco-nuts are grown round the Coast, and Pineapples for the tinning manufactories cover most of the hills within easy reach of the town. Indigo is grown for local use in dyeing the cloth used by the Chinese.

In Penang and Province Wellesley, after Coco-nuts and Padi the chief products are Sugar, from European and Chinese Estates, the former being the largest and most important, with the most modern machinery, Tapioca from one large European owned estate, and Spices cultivated by Chinese on the hills.

Large fruit plantations also exist which supply the towns in the Settlement and Perak.

Rubber cultivation is steadily increasing.

In pursuance of the recently instituted policy of encouraging Agriculture among the native population of the Colony by the holding, with the assistance of Government, of an Agricultural Show in some one of the Settlements annually, a Show similar to that held in Province Wellesley in 1899, was opened at Alor Gajah, in Malacca, in July. It was well attended and was equally successful.

In Malacca are large and profitable Tapioca estates, owned exclusively by Chinese. The method of cultivation is wasteful. Forest land is cleared and planted with three or four crops (the plant takes from 18 to 24 months to mature) and then abandoned. Much land, however, is fit for cultivation again after lying fallow from 15 to 20 years, and it has as yet been found impossible to cultivate Tapioca profitably in this Settlement in any other manner.

Coco-nuts are largely grown along the littoral, and the Malay population plant padi sufficient for their own consumption. Some rice has always to be imported for the Chinese in the town and on the large estates.

Malacca is famed for its fruit, and is one of the chief sources of fruit supply to Singapore.

The low price of Gambier during recent years has caused this cultivation to be much neglected.

The tea estate at Durian Tunggal produces Tea of good quality. The area under cultivation has been extended and new Machinery erected.

Rubber is attracting the attention of Chinese estate owners, and is being largely planted on the Bukit Asahan Estate, owned by a Chinese Syndicate, and at Durian Tunggal. Both Para rubber (*Hevea Brasiliensis*) and India rubber (*Ficus Elastica*) thrive in the Settlement, and the cultivation is only limited by the difficulty in obtaining seed and cuttings. The Government plantations of both these trees should in a few years be capable of supplying all demands.

During the year plantations of Gutta Percha producing trees were started in Singapore and Malacca. The supply of young plants and seeds is limited, and it is difficult to obtain any large number at a time. Five hundred young "Getah Taban" (*Dichopsis Gutta*) trees were, however, obtained from Penang and planted in Malacca. Most of these are doing well. About six hundred "Getah" trees (*Dichopsis Gutta* and *Dichopsis oblongifolia*) of various ages were also discovered growing in different parts of Malacca and were cleared of under-growth and marked.

The Botanical Gardens of Singapore and Penang continue to supply planters with seeds and plants.

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SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 14,469,405, as compared with 13,187,010 in 1899. The Light dues amounted to \$158,572.

Four hundred and twelve new vessels, aggregating 9,487 tons, were built in Singapore during the year.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-three Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of the Colony during the year under review. Thirteen of these contain amendments of previous enactments.

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The most important of the new Ordinances was the Criminal Procedure Code, an enactment somewhat modified from that of 1892, which was passed but never brought into force.

The new Code will radically alter the practice of the Police Courts, and also contains certain provisions affecting Juries and the Conduct of Inquests, and is also designed to amend and improve the initiation of criminal prosecutions by the Police. It will entail a largely increased expenditure by Government, which it is hoped may be justified by the improvements in criminal procedure generally.

Another Ordinance provided for the better administration of Christmas Island, a new dependency of Singapore, lying some 500 miles south of Java. The Island is leased to a Company, who have established a highly remunerative industry by working the rich beds of Phosphates which it contains, and upon which the Government of the Colony receives a royalty. A District Officer has now (1901) been permanently stationed on the Island to conduct its administration.

Other important Ordinances passed were Ordinance VIII., of 1900, for making and maintaining a Railway between Singapore and Johore, and Ordinance IX., of 1900, to further amend the Opium Ordinance.

EDUCATION.

The principal schools of the Colony are either entirely maintained by Government or are in receipt of a substantial Grant-in-Aid. There are 30 schools in which the English language is alone taught, 9 schools in which Tamil is taught as well as English, 2 schools in which Chinese only is taught, and 169 schools in which Malay is the only medium of instruction.

The expenditure on Government English schools was \$22,181, and on Aided schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, and Chinese) \$54,210.

The Malay schools, all of which are entirely supported by Government, cost \$58,739.

The new Educational Code introduced in the previous year has worked well and given general satisfaction. English education is showing a marked advance, both in the number of pupils taught and the quality of the instruction given. The variety of languages spoken by the pupils at most of the English Schools constitutes, however, a very serious obstacle to the work of the teachers at these schools.

Two valuable Scholarships, known as the Queen's Scholarships, of the value of £250 a year for four years, are annually awarded after competitive examination to enable the most

eligible candidates from the schools of the Colony to continue their studies at a British University. Higher education is also fostered by the grant of local Government Scholarships and of a bonus for passes in the Cambridge Senior Locals.

A Malay College for the training of teachers for vernacular schools was opened in Malacca at the beginning of the year. The course is a two year one, and it is as yet too early to estimate the likelihood of the college proving successful. Admission to it has, however, been eagerly sought. Unfortunately, towards the end of the year an outbreak of beri-beri among the students caused the college to be prematurely closed for the annual long vacation.

The Industrial Scholarships which are given for the encouragement of technical instruction, chiefly in engineering, have not yet secured the popularity among the Eurasian community to which they are entitled. But, though not so eagerly sought for as they should be, there appear to be signs that they will shortly attract more and better competitors.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

Except the Chinese hospital at Singapore, all the general hospitals in the Colony are under Government management. The hospitals on the Sugar Estates in Province Wellesley, maintained by the planters, are frequently visited by Government Officers. In 1900, the principal causes for admission were malaria, beri-beri, and venereal disease.

The hospitals, exclusive of the lunatic asylum, received throughout the year 24,983 patients. The Government maintains a lunatic asylum at Singapore and another on Pulau Jerejak, an island adjoining Penang.

Cases of beri-beri occurred in the Singapore asylum throughout the year, as did also a short outbreak of cholera.

REFORMATORY.

A Reformatory was built during the year, but not opened till after its close. Technical instruction in carpentry, shoe-making, and other trades will be given to the boys, as well as instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

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SAVINGS BANK.

There was a slight increase in Savings Bank transactions, as compared with the preceding year, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was \$434,590, an increase of \$3,327, as compared with 1899. The deposits amounted to \$312,098, and withdrawals to \$320,950.

The total investments at the end of the year amounted to \$440,707, the particulars of which are as follows:—

Indian $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ rupee paper. \$273,391.

Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, \$48,000, bearing interest @ 5%, and \$72,300 @ 4% = \$120,300.

Fixed Deposits at Chartered Bank, bearing interest @ 4%, \$23,500.

Cape Stock, bearing interest @ 3%, \$8,516.

Queensland Stock, bearing interest @ 3%, \$10,000.

South Australian Stock, bearing interest @ 3%, \$5,000.

POLICE.

The following increases, which were authorised in 1899, were provided for:—

European Sergeants	...	...	...	5
European Constables	...	...	...	4

Fourteen European Constables were enrolled, of whom ten came from England.

One Inspector died, three were pensioned, and two were reduced: one of the latter was subsequently re-promoted for good work done.

Four Sergeants were promoted to Inspectorships.

Eleven Constables were promoted to Sergeants.

One Constable died and three were dismissed.

It is anticipated that there will be no difficulty in bringing the European Contingent up to strength during the coming year.

The Sikh Contingent has been kept fairly up to strength: but continued severe fever at the Dindings is beginning to act adversely on recruiting for this contingent.

Recruiting for the Malay Contingent has been exceptionally bad, more especially in Singapore, where at the end of the year this contingent was 90 men, or 13%, under strength.

The detective force has worked well.

There were eighteen cases of murder and sixteen cases of gang-robbery.

Gambling, especially in the form of lotteries, has been satisfactorily dealt with in Singapore and Penang.

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VITAL STATISTICS.

The Population of the Colony, which was 512,342 by the Census of 1891, is now estimated to be 617,595. During the year 1900 there were registered 14,814 births, of which 7,700 were of male and 7,114 of female children.

The number of deaths registered was 23,385, as compared with 19,150 in 1899.

The public health of the Colony during 1900 was not good, the death-rate being very considerably higher than that for 1899, as is shewn by a comparison of the figures for the two years, 36·25 as against 31·66.

Zymotic disease was prevalent in all three Settlements, and there was a sharp outbreak of cholera in Singapore during the last two months of the year, during which 243 cases, of which 216 proved fatal, were reported. 22 cases occurred in Penang. Cases of small-pox continued to be reported from all three Settlements. The numbers being:—

Settlement.	Cases.	Deaths.
Singapore	220	91
Penang and Province Wellesley ...	297	77
Malacca	89	16

Two fatal cases of plague occurred in Penang in October. Precautionary measures were at once taken by the authorities, and no further cases were discovered.

The arrangements described four years ago for the registration of deaths have been continued with satisfactory results.

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In Singapore and Penang the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the Municipalities. Both places have a good water supply, but there is a certain amount of overcrowding in the towns, and the measures for the disposal of night-soil and sewage are inadequate.

The town of Malacca and the villages of Balik Pulau, in Penang Island, Bukit Mertajam, Butterworth, Prai (and the adjacent Sugar Estate), and Nibong Tebal, in Province Wellesley, enjoy water supplies from Reservoirs erected and maintained at Government expense.

CLIMATE.

The mean rainfall was, in inches, 90·98 in Singapore; 108·94 in Penang; 71·94 in the Dindings; 101·15 in Province Wellesley; and 65·69 in Malacca. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 5·71 inches at Singapore, on the 19th August.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

A heavy increase is to be recorded as well in the number of articles as in the weight of the mails which passed through the hands of the Postal Department during the year 1900, as compared with 1899. Insurance and Parcel Post branches, as also the Chinese Sub-Post Office, continue to show steady progress. The Postal Revenue amounted to \$233,478, as compared with \$224,392 for 1899. The expenditure charged to 1900 was \$209,695, a decrease of \$2,263 from the expenditure of the previous year.

The money order business continues to increase. The transactions in sterling amounted to £16,669, in Indian currency to Rs. 1,795,744, and in local currency to \$336,000, the total business done thus aggregating \$1,729,791, and shewing a substantial advance upon the total of \$1,374,520 for the year 1899.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley, and also the inland telegraphs in Malacca, all of which are connected with the Government system in the Federated Malay States, are the property of the Government. The cables connecting the three Settlements which comprise the Colony belong to the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company. The length of lines belonging to the Government is as follows:—

Penang	...	...	...	85 miles.
Malacca	...	...	...	39½ „

The Government telephone lines in Singapore are maintained and worked by a Company; in Penang, Province Wellesley, and Malacca they are worked by the Government. Three hundred and eighteen miles of wire are open, which are the property of the Government.

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MILITARY.

The garrison of Singapore consists of His Majesty's regular forces and Asiatic Artillery. No Militia force exists.

A valuable Volunteer Artillery force, 111 strong, exists in Singapore. Only Europeans are enlisted in it.

Its principal armament consists of a complete Battery of six 2·5-inch R.M.L. screw guns, utilised with 7-pr. limbers as a field battery, with pony draught, an experiment which has proved successful. It also possesses some Maxim guns ('45), in the use of which it is proficient. A Volunteer Rifle Corps, 173 strong, also exists, composed of Europeans. Its armament consists of Lee-Enfield rifles and sword bayonets.

A Volunteer Infantry Corps, 150 strong, also exists in Penang. Its armament consists of Martini-Enfield rifles with sword bayonets.

The Constabulary force numbers nearly 2,000 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs. They are well drilled and armed.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Progress has been made on the construction of the Singapore-Johore Railway. The execution of this work has been much hampered by delay in the supply of Rolling Stock and Permanent Way, and by local difficulties as regards labour.

In Singapore, the following buildings were completed during the year:—

Sub-Post Office, Tanglin.

Quarters for Senior Dresser, General Hospital.

Quarters for Chief Police Officer.

Detective Station, with Quarters for Staff.

Reformatory.

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Extension of Drill Shed.

New Native Hospital Ward, Quarantine Station.

Two Quarters for Assistant Superintendents of Police.

Two cells for violent Native patients, General Hospital.

Temporary Supreme Courts.

Progress was also made on the following Works and Buildings:—

Quarters for Boarding Officers.

Telok Ayer Reclamation.

Dredging entrance to Singapore River.

Addition of an upper storey to Women's Block, General Hospital.

New Civil Prison.

Disinfector Building.

Ward for Female Lunatics at Pasir Panjang.

Reconstruction of Balestier Range.

Enlargement of Patent Slip.

Alterations and additions to Supreme Court.

Experimental Ward at Tan Tock Seng's Hospital.

A new ladder Dredger for the Singapore River was constructed, and has worked very satisfactorily.

A steam launch has been purchased, and the construction of six Hopper Barges commenced. The Departmental Plant received a much needed addition in the shape of a four-ton Traction Engine and two three-ton trucks.

All works, buildings, and roads in charge of the Public Works Department were maintained on the usual votes, assisted in a few instances by special provision.

Owing to the large number of private buildings under erection, and to the absorption of any available labour by the Singapore-Johore Railway, considerable difficulty was experienced in procuring an adequate supply of materials and labour.

In Penang, progress was made with new quarters for the Superintendent of Police and for the Assistant Postmaster-General.

The block of buildings to accommodate the Marine Department Boarding Officers and Lascars and the Marine Police which was commenced in 1899 was completed and occupied.

A large iron shed and two smaller ones, for storage of trans-shipment cargo, were built along the sea front to the north of the iron pier in course of erection. The existing Jetty Sheds were extended.

The Public Telephone Exchange was commenced, and will be opened in March, 1901.

The conversion of the Government English Branch School, Chaurasta, into a Detective Police Station, and the erection of Quarters for the Chief Detective Inspector, Detective Inspector, and a European Detective Sergeant were carried out.

The Nibong Tebal Pontoon Bridge was repaired, and six new pontoons provided.

In Malacca, a new ward, substantially built on brick piles, and roofed with tiles, was erected at Durian Daun Hosptial, the Servants' Quarters being pulled down and re-erected outside the compound to make room for it.

The renewal of the timber superstructure of the pier was completed.

The channel at the mouth of the Malacca river was slightly enlarged both in depth and width.

New Quarters for an Assistant Forest Ranger were constructed at Jasin, and the Overseer's Quarters removed from Kesang to Jasin.

Additional accommodation was provided for the Portuguese Mission Boys' School, and a new Vernacular School was constructed at Paya Rumpit.

Two new cooly lines were constructed to replace old decayed lines.

Two cuttings were made across acute bends in the Kesang River, with a view to increase the discharge during floods.

The telephone was extended from Batang Tiga Police Station to Sungei Udang Police Station.

The Malacca-Johol Frontier Boundary was surveyed by contract.

The principal road works have been the construction of a second class road near the Town and the making up of about three miles of road near Bukit Asahan.

Several gradients on the main road from Malacca to Tampin have been eased either by cutting or filling or by small deviations.

A footpath was completed from Sungei Rambei to Tasek.

The roads were well maintained. Upwards of 30 miles were entirely regravelled.

Several bridges and culverts previously constructed of wood were rebuilt in masonry and iron.

The bridge over the Duyong River was completed.

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IMMIGRATION.

During the year immigration from Hongkong was prohibited from June till August, and from Hoihow from March till July. Amoy and Swatau were both declared infected, but immigration was not prohibited. Notwithstanding these restrictions, the number of Chinese Immigrants (200,947, including 20,470 women and children) was the largest recorded since the foundation of the Colony. The figures for the last three years are:—

Year.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1898	124,412*	9,146	133,558
1899	141,980†	7,717	149,697
1900	188,965‡	11,982	200,947

The disproportion between the sexes still increases.

The supply of labour remained far below the demand.

The number of Immigrants from Southern India largely increased, as will be seen from these figures:—

Immigrants.	1899.	1900.
1. Statute Immigrants	4,677	7,615
2. Free Coolies (with aided tickets)	2,217	7,052
3. Other Immigrants	12,625	23,862

In addition to these there were 3,178 minors.

During the year 10,995 left for Southern India, so that the Tamil population of the Colony and Federated Malay States has largely increased.

The physique of the coolies generally was very bad and rendered them very liable to disease after arrival. In consequence the death-rate on the Estates was abnormally high.

Since the appointment of a new Superintendent of Emigration at Negapatam, there has been a decided improvement in the class of men sent over.

* Of these 6,252 were children. † Of these 6,650 were children.
‡ Of these 8,488 were children.

Towards the end of the year negotiations were entered into with the British India Steam Navigation Company for a weekly service of steamers between Negapatam and the Straits. An agreement was made providing for a fortnightly mail service homewards and outwards *viâ* Negapatam and Bombay, and for the transport on favourable terms of immigrants under contracts to labour in the Colony and Federated Malay States. This agreement has worked most satisfactorily.

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GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Sir Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G., continued to administer the Government throughout the year, no appointment to the Governorship, rendered vacant by the death of Sir Charles Mitchell, in December, 1899, being made.

The European Regiment was withdrawn in May on account of the South African War, and was replaced by a Madras Native Infantry Regiment.

A European Volunteer Rifle Corps was formed in Singapore.

The Singapore-Kranji Railway was commenced. This undertaking is being carried out by a special Railway Engineer working under instructions received from the Consulting Engineers at home.

It was decided to import Tamil labour for the work, and a certain number of Statute Immigrants were engaged. There was a large amount of sickness among them as also among the Chinese employed, especially where earth had to be excavated.

The latest Estimates prepared by the Consulting Engineers are largely in excess of those prepared in the Colony. The amount to be paid as compensation for lands and houses was found to be much under-estimated.

The Excise Farms were let in July for three years at an increase of a million-and-a-half dollars a year. The largely increased revenue anticipated enabled the Government to bring forward various schemes for Harbour Improvement and other important Public Works. Steps were taken to carry out the recommendations of a Commission which was appointed to enquire into the congested state of traffic in the Singapore River.

The construction of a Canal through to Keppel Harbour is contemplated.

STRAITS
SETTLE-
MENTS,
1900.

Schemes for Harbour Improvement at Penang also received attention, increased accommodation being provided by Government for goods landed.

The question of extending the iron steamer pier which is being constructed has been left over for the Report of an Expert Harbour Engineer, who is expected to visit the Colony towards the end of this year.

An additional section of the Prai-Parit Buntar Railway in Province Wellesley was opened during the year from Bukit Mertajam to the Perak boundary. The traffic receipts have proved satisfactory, and when the bridge over the Krian River has been finished, and a short length of line in Perak territory constructed, Penang will be connected with the main system of the Federated Malay States. Excellent ferry steamers run between George Town, Penang, and Prai.

It is probable that Malacca will soon be connected with the line which is projected through Johore and Negri Sembilan.

A survey of the line through Malacca territory, the construction of which presents practically no difficulties, has been already made.

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

Speaking generally, it may be said that there are many signs of the increasing prosperity of the Colony as a whole, intimately connected as it is with the welfare of the Federated Malay States. The towns of Singapore and George Town, Penang, continue to extend. Immigration from China and India shows a satisfactory increase. The value of town property has enormously increased. The letting of the Excise Farms for the next triennial period at such a greatly enhanced rate, notwithstanding the high price of opium, may be taken as an index of the prosperity of the place.

Concurrently with the general increase in trade and business the cost of living has advanced enormously. House rent, both in Singapore and Penang, has risen greatly, while the price of labour and building materials deters many from investing their capital in building operations.

The increased output and high price of tin in the Federated Malay States, the bulk of which finds its way to the Smelting Works in the Colony, have largely contributed to the wealth of the population, especially the Chinese, many of whom have made fortunes out of tin and invest a large proportion of their gains in the Colony.

The town of Singapore must be considered very backward as compared with other cities of similar size in the East. The streets are badly lighted by gas—incandescent gas being only employed in certain thoroughfares. The Municipality has now purchased the Gas Works, and it is intended to improve the system and to introduce electric light as a subsidiary scheme.

The Singapore-Kranji Railway is a Government undertaking which as yet meets with little favour from the representatives of the mercantile community.

Tramways do not exist, although it cannot be doubted that a well organized system of electric tramways would be a boon to the place.

It was decided in November that the Government should purchase the Penang Steam Tramways, which were in liquidation.

It is proposed to substitute as a Municipal undertaking electricity for oil lamps by which the streets in George Town are at present lighted, and if an electric installation is decided on it may be found desirable to work the Tramways by electric power. The Tramway service would be worked in connection with the Hill Railway Scheme.

C. W. S. KYNNERSLEY,

Acting Colonial Secretary,

Straits Settlements.

Singapore,

4th July, 1901.

STRAITS
SETTLE-
MENTS,
1900.
—

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 360.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 330.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1902.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
339	British Honduras	1900
340	Hong Kong	"
341	Ceylon	"
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900-1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900-1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900-1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900-1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Report on Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Wei-Hai-Wei... ..	General Report.

No. 360.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 330.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. A. SWETTENHAM to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Singapore,

10th July, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the Report on
the Straits Settlements for the year 1901.

I have, &c.,

F. A. SWETTENHAM.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1901.

FINANCIAL.

The Revenue for 1901 amounted to \$7,041,595, the three Settlements contributing as follows:—

Singapore	...	...	...	\$4,327,462
Penang	...	...	...	2,221,919
Malacca	...	...	...	492,214

There was an increase of \$1,655,038, as compared with the Revenue for 1900, and of \$1,841,569 as compared with that for 1899.

The principal increases were under Licences, \$1,491,853; Land Sales, \$90,311; Stamps, \$30,980; Port and Harbour Dues, \$20,926; Miscellaneous Receipts, \$18,449; Postage \$12,845; Land Revenue, \$11,477; Fines, Forfeitures and Fees of Court, \$11,049.

The principal decrease was under Special Receipts (\$59,524), which in 1900 included the refund of the Government share of contribution towards the Permanent Jubilee Memorial.

The Expenditure for the year was \$7,322,236, as compared with \$6,030,740 in 1900 and \$5,060,523 in 1899.

As compared with 1900, the Expenditure shows an increase of \$1,291,486.

The principal increases were:—

Military expenditure	...	...	\$326,457
Personal emoluments	...	...	292,468
Land and houses purchased	...	...	264,807
Works and buildings, special services.	...	...	193,324
Other charges	...	...	78,327
Special expenses	...	...	65,832
Miscellaneous services	...	...	31,056
Works and buildings, annually recurrent.	...	...	24,652
Pensions, &c.	...	...	14,404
Roads, streets, &c., annually recurrent.	...	...	10,313

The increase under Military Expenditure is due to the increased Revenue receipts, on which 20 per cent. is payable. The increase under Personal Emoluments is due to the grant of

double exchange compensation and to the bonus granted to the subordinate and clerical branches of the Service. Of the item Land and Houses purchased,—Goodwood Estate and Nassim Hill Estate were acquired by the Government during the year. There was a larger amount expended on the Singapore-Johore Railway during this year than in the previous one, which item is included under the head of "Works and Buildings, Special Services," which is the main cause of the increase. The increase under "Other charges" is inevitable, owing to the expansion of the Colony where departments are extending and the price of stores and labour goes on increasing. The expenditure in connection with the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, \$45,000, and the purchase of the Penang Tramways, \$40,000, were charged to the head "Special Expenses" in 1901. On the other hand, the contribution towards the Indian Famine Fund, \$20,000, was included under the same head in 1900. The increase under "Miscellaneous Services" is due to the Expenses in taking the Census. The increases in "Public Works Department, Annually Recurrent," in "Works and Buildings" and "Roads, Streets, and Bridges" are owing to more buildings and roads having to be looked after. The increase under "Pensions" is partly due to a larger amount charged to "Difference in Exchange on Pensions payable in England," owing to the fall in exchange and partly due to new pensions granted.

Of the decreases, the most important is under "Interest," viz., \$14,834, due to the writing off of a certain sum for difference in exchange on balances in England in 1900.

The balance to the credit of the Colony on 31st December, 1901, was \$1,806,968, as compared with \$2,059,378 on the same date in 1900.

The Colony has no public debt.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange was very unsteady during the year. The average value of the dollar was $1/11\frac{3}{8}$ on demand and $1/11\frac{1}{8}$ at four months' sight, as compared with $2/0\frac{3}{8}$ and $2/0\frac{9}{16}$ in 1900. The highest rate for demand drafts was $2/1\frac{3}{8}$ in October, and the lowest $1/9\frac{1}{8}$ in January.

CURRENCY.

The currency of the Colony consists of Mexican and British dollars circulating at equal value and of Government currency notes.

British dollars to the value of \$17,281,263 were imported by the local banks alone, as compared with \$21,571,488 in 1900. Other dollars to the value of \$2,087,260 were imported by the banks.

The annual importation of British dollars by the banks since their first coinage in 1895 has been :—

Year.					Amount.
					\$
1895	...	...	...	...	2,201,890
1896	...	...	...	...	3,623,000
1897	...	...	...	...	25,704,908
1898	...	...	...	...	19,492,168
1899	...	...	...	...	29,349,725
1900	...	...	...	...	21,571,488
1901	...	...	...	...	17,281,263

The average bank note circulation of the Colony for the year was \$5,473,755, as compared with \$6,713,133 in 1900. The falling off is due principally to the reduction by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation of the amount of its local issue.

The amount of Government currency notes in circulation on the tenth of each month (when statistics are published) was :—

Month.					Amount.
					\$
January	...	...	...	...	6,205,000
February	...	...	...	...	6,946,000
March	...	...	...	...	7,046,000
April	...	...	...	...	7,046,000
May	...	...	...	...	7,046,000
June	...	...	...	...	7,220,000
July	...	...	...	...	7,585,000
August	...	...	...	...	8,114,000
September	...	...	...	...	8,484,000
October	...	...	...	...	8,703,000
November	...	...	...	...	8,753,000
December	...	...	...	...	8,753,000

MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue of the three municipalities amounted to \$2,067,611, and their expenditure, including sums expended on loan works, to \$2,161,131.

TRADE.

The condition of trade for the period under review appears to have been fairly prosperous though the large percentage of increase of the immediately preceding years was not maintained.

The total volume of trade—inter-Settlement trade excluded—is shown as under:—

	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Merchandise	348,853,428	398,051,723	462,136,001	519,482,193	528,162,575
Treasure ...	62,515,245	62,366,718	60,853,178	57,225,012	48,772,939
Total ...	411,368,673	460,418,441	522,989,179	576,707,205	576,935,514

The increase in the value of merchandise as compared with the trade of 1900 is about 2 per cent.

Trade with countries having a gold currency decreased by something less than one per cent.; trade with silver currency countries increased some 6 per cent.

The Imports of merchandise in 1901 reached a total of 283 million dollars, while Exports accounted for some 245 million dollars. Converted into sterling at the average rate of exchange for the year these values are equivalent to about 27½ million pounds and 24 million pounds, respectively.

These values, expressed in dollars, show an increase, as compared with the figures of 1900, of over one per cent. in Imports and over 2½ per cent. in Exports. But the values, expressed in sterling, show a decrease of Imports of half a million pounds, and in Exports a decrease of nearly a quarter of a million pounds.

The percentages of increase for the four preceding years were, for Imports, 6½, 13½, 15½, and 13½ respectively, and for Exports, 6½, 14½, 10½ and 11, respectively.

Imports of manufactured goods fell off as regards metals and cotton goods, except yarns. Yarns show a large increase both of quantity and of value.

The average prices of Straits produce were, generally speaking, lower than in 1900, except for gutta percha, gambier, rattans and sticklac, the prices of which showed a distinct advance. This dullness of the market, combined with a decline in the quantity of the principal articles exported, necessarily tended to lower values.

Smaller quantities of gambier, rattans, copra, coffee, hides and gutta percha were exported, while tin, jelutong rubber and tapioca were sent out in increased quantities.

IMPORT.

The net increase, as compared with the year 1900, in the values of Imports, was some \$3,250,000.

In the "Food and Drink" class there was an important increase (upwards of \$6,500,000) in rice and padi; and increases of less magnitude in sugar, bran, tapioca, spirits, onions, fish, birds' nests and nutmegs.

In the "Raw Materials" class, the value of tin ore imported shows an increase of \$2,750,000. Wood goods, too, give increased returns, while in the cases of petroleum and coal there is a decrease.

Under the head of "Manufactured Articles" the value of cotton piece goods imported reached the very large total of \$14,800,000, a slight increase as compared with the preceding year, the value of sarongs imported reached \$5,200,000, a decrease on the year of \$500,000; but yarns increased by \$800,000 to a total value of \$2,600,000. Sewing threads, handkerchiefs and blankets are amongst the articles that show an increase, while in jute bags there is a falling off in value of nearly a million dollars.

The value of silk piece goods imported increased largely; the value of the imports of hosiery and millinery and drapery reached close on \$4,500,000, a decrease, as compared with the values of 1900, of \$200,000, the falling off being in imports from Germany.

From the United Kingdom piece goods to the value of \$12,000,000 were received, equal to about 80 per cent. of the whole trade, and an increase on the imports of the previous year of some 6 per cent. The value of piece goods imported from the continent of Europe was upwards of \$1,000,000, about 7 per cent. of the whole trade, and a decrease of half per cent. as compared with the trade of 1900.

Imports from Bombay and Madras decreased in value by nearly one half.

There was a falling off in the value of sarongs imported from the United Kingdom of 16 per cent., and from the continent of Europe of 15 per cent.

From the United Kingdom came nearly 27 per cent. of the imports of plain yarn and some 71 per cent. of the dyed yarn imported.

Of sewing thread, the United Kingdom sent us 83 per cent. of the total value imported.

Taken as a whole, the imports of piece goods were fairly maintained, but the year is considered not to have been a good one for importers; the steady fall in Manchester prices made importers anxious to clear stocks. Demand was not at any time good and was occasionally distinctly poor, nor were signs of

improvement visible at the close of the year. Tightness of money locally was an important factor in the case; and stocks were rather heavy, especially in grey goods.

In metals, imports did not attain to the dimensions of the preceding year, but stocks were low and an average business was done with a tendency to lower rates.

The total value of manufactured metals imported decreased by nearly a million dollars, the falling off being observable mainly in nails, corrugated iron, bar and rod iron, and in a less degree in steel and machinery. The apparent decrease would be considerably greater were it not for the value of imports of telegraph materials included under this head.

Excluding telegraph materials, the imports of metals from the United Kingdom show a decrease of nearly \$900,000, or some 15 per cent., while supplies from Continental ports fell off by \$324,000, equal to a decrease of 14 per cent.; imports from the United States also decreased by some 14 per cent.

An increase of \$347,000 in the value of miscellaneous manufactures is due to increased values of fireworks, earthenware, mats, paper, carriages, and carriage materials, saddlery, beads, and rattanware. Some decrease under this head is apparent in the case of oil cakes, matches, fancy goods and toys, lamps and lampware, wood goods, clocks and watches, perfumery, glassware and cabinetware.

It is noticeable that in the case of candles imported from Europe less than a tenth appears to have been received from the United Kingdom; in crockeryware, out of a total value of \$1,700,000, the United Kingdom contributed only \$136,000; and in the case of glassware, the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to only \$170,000 out of a total trade with European ports in this article of \$800,000. In the matter of carriages imported a more satisfactory result is shown, the imports from the United Kingdom being 90 per cent. of the whole trade.

The value of imports of lamps and lampware was over \$340,000, of which Germany sent goods to the value of \$150,000, a decrease as compared with 1900 of 50 per cent.; the United Kingdom accounted for \$85,000, and the United States of America \$12,000, the figures being much the same as in the preceding year.

Paints and dyes to the value of \$640,000 were imported, a falling off as compared with the imports of 1900 of \$30,000. The imports from the United Kingdom amounted to upwards of one-half of the total, about the same as in the previous year.

The value of paper and paperware and stationery of European manufacture imported in 1901 is \$870,000—imports from the United Kingdom accounting for nearly \$400,000; Austria, \$350,000; and Germany, \$80,000. In 1900, the total receipts were \$700,000; of which imports from the United Kingdom represented some \$320,000, from Austria, \$250,000, and from Germany, \$90,000.

The imports of perfumery reached a value of \$400,000; of which the United Kingdom contributed \$135,000, the same as in 1900; Belgium, \$79,000, an increase of \$5,000; France, \$62,000, as in 1900; and Germany, \$56,000, a decrease of 50 per cent.

European Continental countries, more especially Germany, continue to be our main source of supply for musical instruments, though 1901 shows an increase in this respect from both the United Kingdom and the United States.

The United Kingdom continues to maintain its pre-eminence for the supply of cycles, 85 per cent. of the total imports coming from there. Machines of American and Continental makes show a falling off.

EXPORT.

Exports show a net increase in value of nearly \$5,500,000 as compared with the figures of 1900.

In the "Food and Drink" class the imports of rice increased in value to the extent of nearly \$6,000,000. Increases of smaller amount appear in sugar and sugar candy, pepper, preserved pineapples, *bêche-de-mer*, tapioca, birds' nests, beans and peas, and opium.

Decreases took place in the value of exports of coffee, fish, live stock, sago, tea and areca-nuts.

Under the head of "Raw Materials," produce generally shows a small decrease in value, including the value of tin exported, the decrease in this latter being due to the low average price realised. The decreases are large in Borneo and india rubbers, raw hides, ground-nuts, petroleum, canes and gutta percha.

Increases are observable in the values of gutta jelutong (pontianak), and other inferior rubbers. Increases are also to be found in coconut oil, gum copal, planks, timber, sticklac and sandalwood, though in a less degree.

In manufactured goods there is an increase of a million dollars.

Textile manufactures show an increase of \$1,350,000, chiefly in piece goods and yarn; metals show a trifling increase of value, spread generally over all the articles in the class, and miscellaneous manufactures show a decrease of \$400,000.

IMPORT AND EXPORT QUANTITIES.

The total quantity of coal imported remained about the same as in 1900, 668,000 tons. Japan varieties increased by 32,000 tons; Cardiff coal fell off by 17,000 tons; Australian and Borneo coal show a reduction of about 6,000 tons each; and Indian coal retained its position in the list with some 77,000 tons.

The imports of petroleum attained large dimensions during the year, reaching close on $2\frac{1}{2}$ million cases of 65 lbs. each, an increase of $28\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This increase was due mainly to the large quantity of Russian bulk oil introduced—930,000 cases, as compared with 277,000 cases in 1900. From the Dutch possessions there came nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ million cases; American shipments improved slightly; and shipments from Burma ceased.

The declared imports of liquid fuel amounted to 23,000 tons, much the same as in the preceding year.

Sixteen thousand five hundred and eighty-four chests of opium were imported in the course of the year; of this quantity, 14,395 chests were of Benares quality. The exports of opium amounted to 13,593 chests, in addition to 266,000 taels which went mostly to Australia. The average declared import price of the Benares quality was \$909 a chest, slightly less than the price for 1900. Serious fluctuations, as usual, marked the trade in this article.

Not included in these figures are transshipments from Calcutta aggregating 505 chests, of which 400 chests went to Java.

Rice, the staple foodstuff of the Colony, was imported to the extent of half a million tons, an increase in quantity of 30 per cent.; over 83 per cent. of this was re-exported. Rangoon and Bangkok largely increased their output to these Settlements while the supply from French Indo-China fell off. The average export price was slightly under that of the preceding year, and complaints were frequent as to the quality of the Rangoon article supplied.

Cattle imported exceeded by 2,200 the imports of 1900, but the number of pigs brought in decreased from 68,000 to 55,000.

The imports of fish aggregated 815,000 pikuls, a decrease in quantity of 36,000 pikuls, but the average price was much higher.

The supplies of wheat flour fell from 23,000 to 21,000 tons. American flour imported *via* Hong Kong practically rules this market, but the quantity received from Australia reached the substantial figure of 2,000 tons, an increase of 75 per cent.

The total quantity of malt liquors imported shows a decrease of upwards of 5 per cent.; 118,000 gallons of whiskey, 4,000 gallons less than in 1900, were imported; and the imports of arrack and samsoo fell off by 27,000 gallons; but other spirits, more especially brandy and gin, show an increase.

The decrease in the importation of wine is chiefly in respect of champagne and port.

Cotton piece goods imported decreased by 300,000 pieces. Upwards of 5 million pieces in all were imported, of which $3\frac{1}{2}$ million pieces were declared as plain cottons, upwards of 900,000 pieces as coloured, and upwards of 800,000 pieces as printed. The imports into Singapore absorbed 74 per cent. of the whole quantity, an increase of 2 per cent.

Over 4 million pieces were received from the United Kingdom, an increase as compared with the previous year of 7 per cent.

From the continent of Europe the receipts were 440,000 pieces—equal to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole—a decrease of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The imports from Madras and Bombay decreased by one half.

Sarongs and slendangs were imported in less quantity by 82,000 corges. Supplies of these articles from the United Kingdom decreased by 19 per cent., and from Continental ports by 25 per cent., while from Madras they remained much the same as in 1900.

Dyed yarn imports nearly doubled in quantity, the receipts being larger than in any previous year. Plain yarn increased by upwards of 20 per cent. to about an average year's importation—the years 1899 and 1900, it should be remembered were remarkable for small imports of this article.

Of the plain yarn, nearly 20 per cent. came from the United Kingdom; and of the dyed yarn, some 73 per cent. Upwards of 9,000 bales of grey and bleached yarn were received from India, being an increase of 1,300 bales; and of dyed yarn, 3,200 bales, an increase of about 1,200 bales, came from Continental ports.

The imports of silk piece goods, much of which is of mixed material, amounted to 403,500 pieces, a decrease of upwards of 20,000 pieces; but the average price in 1901 was much better than for 1900.

Of woollen cloth, of pure and mixed quality, 30,000 pieces were imported, a falling off as compared with the previous year of some 8,000 pieces.

The imports of cement reached 103,000 casks, an increase of 13,000 casks. Of this quantity about a fifth came from Hong Kong, an increase as compared with 1900 of upwards of 50 per cent.; while 50,000 casks were received from the United Kingdom against 46,000 in the preceding year. From the Continental ports there came about 30,000 casks, about the same quantity as in 1900.

The quantity of dynamite imported, though actually of small amount, is relatively important. Besides the Anglo-Swedish Nobel brand there are two other marks, both German, to be found in this market.

Turning now to exports, we find that the shipments of tin again increased this year by upwards of 9 per cent., reaching a total of 52,500 tons. The home market in respect of this article was marked by violent fluctuations said to be caused by a continuous struggle between conflicting interests. On the whole, a retrograde movement in prices may be said to have taken place.

Gambier exports have steadily decreased since 1897, and for the year under review amounted to 40,000 tons. The quantity exported in 1901 decreased by 14 per cent., but the average price of bale and cube gambier combined increased by 25 per cent.

The shipments of tapioca and sago increased $6\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., respectively, in quantity; but coffee again fell off, this time by 35 per cent.; hides, raw and tanned, the export of which is alleged to be seriously affected by high freights, fell off by 25 per cent.

The export of horns increased in quantity.

The exports of spices kept well up to the level of the previous year. Areca-nuts, black pepper, and nutmegs exhibit increases of 4, 10 and 17 per cent. respectively. In other descriptions there were trifling decreases except in the case of cloves.

Shipments of copra again decreased, the decrease as compared with the results of 1900 being nearly 18 per cent. It is suggested that the continued decrease in the shipments of this article may be due to the high rates of freight ruling at Singapore, possibly combined with decreased output at the places of production.

There is a fair increase in the total quantity of gums exported. The particular articles included under this head, in which the largest decreases are seen, are gutta percha and rubbers (except jelutong). The decrease in quantity of gutta percha is compensated for by the higher prices obtainable for the finer qualities, due to purchases made on account of the cable companies. The output of jelutong (pontianak) rubber increased 60 per cent. for the year.

Rattans exported fell off from 37,000 tons in 1900 to 30,900 tons in 1901, a decrease of $16\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The trade in preserved pineapples continues to steadily increase. The shipments to Europe and America in 1901 reached a total of 400,000 cases, 75 per cent. of which went to the United Kingdom.

TRADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

A classification of the trade of the Colony according to countries shows that 15.9 per cent. is with the United Kingdom, 19.8 per cent. with British Possessions, and 19.2 per cent. with the Malay Peninsula, Sarawak and French India, the last-mentioned of which exports chiefly British goods. Thus what may be called British trade may be said to absorb 54.9 per cent. of the total against 45.1 per cent. with other countries.

Imports from the United Kingdom increased by 4 per cent. Cotton piece goods accounted for an increase of upwards of a million dollars; yarns for nearly \$750,000; and telegraph materials for \$400,000.

In metals imported from the United Kingdom there is a marked decrease, especially in corrugated iron, steel, bar iron and machinery; and in textiles there is a decrease in sarongs.

Exports to the United Kingdom decreased by nearly 11 per cent. Tin showed a decrease in value of \$4,360,000; pepper upwards of \$800,000; hides, \$600,000; india rubber nearly \$400,000; and gutta percha nearly \$300,000. There was a decrease in value also in sugar, rattans, rice, and liquid fuel.

The only articles exported to the United Kingdom in which important increases appear are gambier, sago, flour, and preserved fruits.

The increase in imports from the continent of Europe is only 3 per cent.; in 1900 the increase was 23 per cent. Germany, which headed the list for 1900 with an increase of 30 per cent., shows, in 1901, a decrease of 14 per cent. The falling off in the imports from Germany is in all principal articles except crockery-ware, and is especially noticeable in apparel and hosiery, nails, lamps and provisions.

The imports from Holland show a decrease as compared with the imports of 1900. The falling off is in cotton piece goods, hardware, tramway materials and tobacco; in other articles an increase appeared, notably in gin.

The value of imports from Austria nearly doubled in amount, sugar alone accounting for an increase of \$700,000. The value of the imports of paper exceeded those of the previous year by over \$90,000.

The imports from France also show a reduction in value, due to smaller importations of umbrellas, clocks, and watches. The import of brandy increased.

The value of petroleum introduced from Russia shows an increase.

The decreased value of matches from Sweden accounts for the most part for the decline in the value of imports from that country. Apparel from Spain exhibits, as was the case in 1900, an increased value.

The total value of the exports to the continent of Europe fell off, as compared with 1900, to the extent of less than one per cent.

The exports to France fell off in value to the amount of two million dollars, tin being responsible for \$526,000 and copra for \$824,000, followed by coffee with a decrease of nearly half a million dollars and, at a distance, by hides, gambier, rattans, white pepper and flake tapioca. The only article exported to France that showed a marked increase is gutta percha.

The exports to Germany and Holland also declined in value. To the former country mainly in gutta percha and copra and to the latter country in tin and rattans.

Tin and copra of greater value than in the preceding year were exported to Italy and Russia respectively, but there was a falling off in the export of copra to Italy and of pepper to Russia.

The exports of tin and pepper to Austria show an increase while copra shows a decrease.

The total value of exports to Belgium is much the same as in 1900. Tin and copra, however, show a decrease of nearly a quarter of a million dollars, the decrease being made up by increases of smaller amount in various other articles.

Tin and copra are responsible for the increase in the value of exports to Spain.

As compared with 1900, the import trade with the United States of America shows a marked decrease—a decrease in value of nearly 23 per cent.—but the export trade was in a very flourishing condition, the increased demand for produce for ports of the United States of America being doubtless due to the great manufacturing activity of that country as well as to the very low freights offering from Singapore. Tin exports increased in value by \$3,630,000; black pepper by nearly one million; jelutong rubber by upwards of half a million; rattans and gambier showed an increase each of upwards of \$310,000; and increases of smaller amount appear under white pepper, gutta percha and tapioca pearl. The only article of importance in which there was a falling off is coffee.

The imports from the Netherlands India show a decrease as compared with 1900 of 10 per cent., but even so the total exceeds that of any year previous to 1900. The principal falling off is in supplies from Sumatra and Java.

From Sumatra there is a falling off, amounting in the aggregate to 2½ millions of dollars, in nearly all the chief articles of produce—gutta percha, petroleum, fish, tobacco, rubber and rattans.

From Java there is a decrease in the value of imports of gutta, coffee, ground-nuts, kachang oil and sarongs, while rattans show a fair increase.

The imports from Dutch Borneo though in the aggregate slightly below the amount of the imports of the preceding year were on the whole well maintained. Copra increased to the extent of nearly \$700,000, and gutta percha by an almost equal amount; rattans decreased by \$700,000, Borneo rubber by nearly \$300,000, and petroleum with residue by a still larger sum.

The trade with the Celebes equalled in value that of 1900; the imports from the Dutch islands increased.

The principal articles imported from the Celebes which show a falling off are copra and rattans; nutmegs, dammar, and precious stones show an increase.

From the Dutch islands was received more tin ore, petroleum and gambier, but less (in value) of copra and pepper.

From Acheen the imports, mainly into Penang, show a decrease in areca-nuts, black pepper and gutta percha.

The imports from Bali decreased by upwards of \$500,000 in coffee, by \$400,000 in copra, and to a smaller extent in raw cotton; the imports of cattle increased in value.

The value of copra brought from the Natunas and Anambas Islands increased by \$200,000; while from Rhio there was a falling off in cube gambier and in pepper.

The exports from the Colony to the Netherlands India increased as compared with the exports of 1900 by nearly $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

This increase is more than accounted for by the increased exports to Java of rice, the export of which exceeded the export of 1900 by nearly \$4,000,000. All the other principal articles of export to Java, except earthenware, show a decrease, amounting in the aggregate to some \$1,500,000.

Rice was exported to Sumatra and to Dutch Borneo also in increased quantities; but cotton piece goods and sugar exported to these places showed a decrease.

There was an increase in the export to Achinese ports of cotton piece goods, confectionery, rice, opium, and cattle.

The export trade with Bali, Natunas Islands and Rhio calls for no remark except that in the case of the first named there was a decrease in piece goods and opium.

The value of imports from British India as a whole is much the same as in 1900. Taken separately, however, a decrease appears in the imports from all parts of that Empire with the exception of Burma. Rice is responsible for the increase from Burma.

The decrease of two million dollars in imports from Calcutta is made up of a diminution in the value of imports of opium and of gunnies in nearly equal proportions.

Imports from Madras decreased by upwards of a million dollars, towards which cotton piece goods contributed some \$800,000. There was a decrease also in oil cakes, cattle and goat skins; in sarongs there was an increase.

The volume of exports to India increased about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as compared with an increase of 15 per cent. in 1900.

In respect of exports to Bombay and to Calcutta there was a decrease; the decrease in the exports to Bombay being in coffee, gum benjamin and pearl sago, while there was an increase in both rice and tin. In the case of exports to Calcutta, areca-nuts fell off to the extent of upwards of half a million dollars, pepper to the amount of \$110,000; gambier, sugar and tin each \$100,000; in sticklac there was a large increase.

The increase of \$700,000 in the case of Madras is mainly accounted for by the increased value of cotton piece goods sent from Penang—an increase of upwards of \$500,000. There were increases of smaller amount in areca-nuts and tin, while petroleum exported decreased in value by \$100,000.

Of the advance in value of nearly one million dollars in goods despatched to Burmese ports, fish, dry and salted, contributed upwards of half a million dollars; increases are also to be noted in areca-nuts, curry-stuffs, matches, hides and rice, while raw silk and Chinese preserves show a falling off.

The value of imports from the East Malay Peninsula increased by $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. while exports increased by \$230,000—equal to nearly 14 per cent. There was increase in the value of fish, cattle, padi and birds' nests imported, but a decrease in refined tin, copra and swine. Much of the copra that used to come to Singapore for shipment now finds its way to Bangkok. In the matter of exports there was an advance in value of cotton goods and yarn, rice alone showing a falling off.

From the West Malay States the imports increased in value by nearly \$5,800,000 dollars, or nearly 10 per cent. From Selangor alone the increase is \$3,372,000. Tin ore gave an increased value of \$2,700,000; tin, an increase of \$2,400,000; and gambier nearly a million dollars. A heavy decrease occurred in pepper imported and, though of less moment, in rice.

The exports show a net increase of upwards of \$300,000, equal to about one per cent. Rice exported increased in value nearly \$900,000, and Benares opium decreased by \$200,000; other fluctuations though numerous are unimportant.

The imports from Siam and the Siamese States increased by some \$4,500,000, equal to some 23 per cent. of the value of the imports of 1900.

Tin fell off by upwards of a million dollars, but rice accounted for an increase of \$5,300,000. The imports of cattle decreased by \$250,000; pepper, too, decreased, though to a smaller extent, but in fish there was an increase of nearly half a million dollars and in padi an increase of \$160,000.

The exports increased by $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Cotton piece goods show an increase of nearly \$600,000; gunnies nearly \$500,000; yarns upwards of \$250,000; and sarongs upwards of \$235,000. In the value of exports of apparel and of sugar there was a fair increase, while in rice and petroleum are to be found the chief decreases.

The imports from French Indo-China decreased by 31 per cent.—nearly \$2,200,000, of which rice was responsible for close on \$2,000,000.

Exports decreased upwards of 12 per cent.—\$370,000, of which \$325,000 were for gunnies, \$32,000 for sharks' fins, and \$25,000 for opium.

The total value of imports from Hong Kong and China remained about the same; there were many fluctuations in the way of both increase and decrease, but none calling for special comment.

B

The exports increased in value upwards of 11 per cent., or \$2,100,000. The more important increases were in sugar and sugar candy, \$1,400,000; petroleum, \$700,000; black pepper and other articles. On the other hand, there is a decrease in tin (\$500,000), ground-nuts, rattans, padi, etc.

The imports from Australia decreased upwards of 10 per cent., the decrease being due chiefly to reduced imports of tin ore and coal. The value of sandalwood imported was nearly doubled as compared with the imports of the preceding year; the value of the imports of wheat flour also increased largely.

The total value of exports to Australia shows a slight increase. In the value of prepared opium there is an important increase, but in rice and pearl tapioca a decrease.

The value of the imports from Japan increased upwards of 6 per cent. the advance being accounted for by the increased values of coal, jinrikishas, cigars and matches.

The exports decreased upwards of 21 per cent., the decrease being visible chiefly in petroleum, while rice and indigo show increases.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON TRADE.

The feature of the trade as judged from the total values of imports and exports is a want of expansion. While there has been no going back there has been an absence of the forward movement so observable in preceding years, and so far as an opinion can be formed from figures practically no progress was made.

While this was the case with respect to the goods and produce trade of the Colony a very different condition of affairs held good in respect of the shipping trade. Of the large increase in the tonnage of shipping entered and cleared at ports in the Colony, the British shipping of the United Kingdom comes first with an increase of tonnage of 800,000 tons, then Germany with an increase of 480,000 tons, Russia 210,000 tons, and Norway and Sweden with 145,000 tons.

Towards the end of 1901 the Registrar of Imports and Exports was, in compliance with instructions from the Secretary of State, entrusted with the duty of corresponding with the newly-created Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade on the subject of commercial matters affecting the Colony, and was empowered to reply directly or through that department to enquiries made from home by merchants and manufacturers.

Several of his reports on trade matters have appeared from time to time in the columns of the Board of Trade Journal, and it will no doubt be found to be to the advantage of British trade that such an appointment should exist in so important a trade centre as this.

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines of importance in the Colony, though deposits of tin exist in the Dindings and Malacca. The output of alluvial tin from Malacca in 1901 was valued at \$1,396. Prospectors from Selangor and Perak have visited parts of this Settlement and possibly the industry may be revived.

The Straits Trading Company, who own the enormous smelting works at Pulau Brani at the entrance to Singapore Harbour, have also erected large tin smelting works at Butterworth in Province Wellesley. The erection of buildings was carried on there throughout the year, and this industry promises to be one of great extent and importance.

Large establishments for the tinning of pineapples exist in Singapore, and the area planted for this purpose has increased.

A large Chinese biscuit factory exists and appears to be prospering.

The fisheries of the Colony are very rich and give occupation to a large number of people. Most of the fish caught near Singapore and Penang is consumed fresh. That caught near the Dindings is salted for consumption in Penang and Perak. In Penang and Malacca large quantities of a species of shrimp are manufactured into "belachan" a favourite native condiment for eating with curry.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

Coco-nuts are very widely grown throughout the Colony, the largest plantations existing in Penang and Province Wellesley. During the past year they attained the highest price known for many years, viz., \$37 per 1,000 nuts.

Singapore is not an agricultural Settlement, but coco-nuts are grown round the coast, and pineapples, which are used to supply the tinning manufactories, cover most of the hills within easy reach of the town. Indigo is grown for local use in dyeing the cloth used by the Chinese, and there are also some small plantations of pepper and the betel-vine (Sireh).

In Penang and Province Wellesley after coco-nuts and padi, the chief product is sugar from European and Chinese estates, the former being the largest and most important and being furnished with the most modern machinery. Tapioca is grown on one large European-owned estate, and spices (nutmegs and cloves) are cultivated by Chinese on the hills. Most of the sugar

estates suffered severely from the excessive drought during the first three months of the year, while the nutmeg plantations were visited by disease.

Large fruit plantations also exist, which supply the towns in the Settlement and Perak.

Rubber cultivation is steadily increasing and has been organized to a considerable extent by some of the larger land-holders.

In pursuance of the recently instituted policy of encouraging agriculture among the native population of the Colony by the holding, with the assistance of Government, of an Agricultural Show in some one of the Settlements annually, a Show, similar to that held in Province Wellesley in 1899, was opened at Penang in August. It was well attended and was in every way successful. The proposed Show at Jasin in Malacca was postponed, owing to bad harvests and sickness among the cattle.

In Malacca there are large and profitable tapioca estates owned exclusively by Chinese. The method of cultivation is wasteful, Forest land is cleared and planted with three or four crops (the plant takes from 18 to 24 months to mature) and then abandoned. Much land, however, is fit for cultivation again after lying fallow from 15 to 20 years, and it has as yet been found impossible to cultivate tapioca profitably in this Settlement in any other manner.

Coco-nuts are largely grown along the littoral, and the Malay population plant padi sufficient for their own consumption. A certain quantity of rice has always to be imported for the Chinese in the town and on the large estates.

Malacca is famed for its fruit and is one of the chief sources of the fruit supply of Singapore.

The tea estate at Durian Tunggal continues to produce tea of good quality.

Rubber is attracting the attention of Chinese estate owners, and is being largely planted on the Bukit Asahan estate, owned by a Chinese syndicate, and at Durian Tunggal. Both para rubber (*Hevea Braziliensis*) and India rubber (*Ficus elastica*) thrive in the Settlement. Experimental tappings of *Ficus elastica* have already taken place with good results.

The plantations of gutta percha-producing trees started in the Colony last year were supplied with no less than from thirty to forty thousand seedlings and saplings which were divided between the three Settlements. It is noticeable that the gutta percha tree was seen in fruit during the year 1901 for the first time on record.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 16,289,704, as compared with 14,469,405 in 1900. The light dues amounted to \$178,872.62.

Four hundred and seventy-seven new vessels, aggregating 10,519 tons, were built in Singapore during the year.

LEGISLATION.

The year 1901 was not characterized by many important additions to the Statute Book. Twenty-one Ordinances were passed, of which eleven contained amendments of previous enactments.

Three of the Ordinances deal with land, namely one (No. 1) validating and legalizing Leases of Foreshores and Submerged Lands, another for the Improvement of Agricultural Lands (No. II.), and a third to provide for a better system of transferring rights in Customary Land in Malacca (No. VII.).

Ordinance No. V. of 1901 consolidates and amends the previously existing law as to granting pensions to the widows or children of deceased public officers.

Another Ordinance of some importance regulates the transit of cattle and other live stock by sea. The immediate cause of the introduction of this measure was the cruel treatment of cattle in the trade between Singapore and Bangkok, due to the animals being stowed on deck and between decks, without proper pens to keep them from being maimed and disabled in rough weather.

EDUCATION.

The schools of the Colony are divided into two classes—Vernacular schools, nearly all for Malays and directly managed and financed by the Government, and English schools, mostly managed by private bodies and receiving grants-in-aid from the Government. There are, however, a few Government English schools and a few grant-in-aid schools where Tamil or Chinese are taught.

There are 29 schools in which English only is taught, 7 in which English and Tamil are taught; 2 in which Tamil only, 2 in which Chinese only, and 161 in which Malay only is taught.

The expenditure on Government English schools was \$29,935, on aided schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil, and Chinese) \$79,350, and on the Government Malay schools, \$73,393.

Two Queen's Scholarships of a value not exceeding £250 a year, tenable up to five years, are awarded annually on the results of the Cambridge Senior Local Examination. Local Government Scholarships, and Industrial Scholarships, for the encouragement of boys taking up engineering or surveying, are also given.

A Training College for Malay teachers for the Colony and Federated Malay States is making satisfactory progress in Malacca. The cost for the year was \$6,805. Twenty-eight students passed out in December, 1901.

A Training College for teachers in English schools is shortly to be opened.

A Bill was introduced during the year to make attendance at school compulsory on boys living within a certain radius of a school where a free education is provided in their own language.

This will apply chiefly to Malays. It had not yet been brought into force at the close of the year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

Except the Chinese hospital at Singapore, all the general hospitals in the Colony are under Government management. The hospitals on the sugar estates in Province Wellesley, maintained by the planters, are frequently visited by Government officers. In 1901, the principal causes of admission were malaria, beri-beri, and venereal diseases, the first two less and the last being more prevalent than in 1900.

The hospitals, exclusive of the lunatic asylum, received throughout the year 25,154 patients. The Government maintains a lunatic asylum at Singapore and a leper asylum on Pulau Jerejak near Penang.

Cases of beri-beri occurred in the Singapore Asylum throughout the year, which led to a seaside establishment for female patients being organized at Pasir Panjang, about five miles from the town, with satisfactory results.

REFORMATORY.

A Reformatory was opened early in the year, seven miles from the town of Singapore. At first an insufficient boundary fence allowed a number of the boys to escape. A wall has now been built enclosing the buildings. At the end of the year there were 28 boys in the reformatory, learning carpentry or shoe-making, as well as reading and writing in Romanised Malay. The expenditure on this institution amounted to \$7,977.

SAVINGS BANK.

There was a large increase in Savings Bank transactions, as compared with the preceding year, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was \$487,098, an increase of \$52,518 as compared with 1900. The deposits amounted to \$361,694, and withdrawals to \$321,708.

The total investments at the end of the year amounted to \$476,486, the particulars of which are as follows:—

Indian $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. rupee paper, \$273,391.

Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, \$48,000, bearing interest at 5 per cent., and \$71,500 at 4 per cent. = \$119,500.

Fixed Deposits at the Chartered Bank, bearing interest at 4 per cent., \$28,500.

Cape Stock, bearing interest at 3 per cent., \$8,516.

Queensland Stock, bearing interest at 3 per cent., \$10,000.

South Australian Stock, bearing interest at 3 per cent., \$21,044.

Zanzibar Government 3 per cent. guaranteed loan, \$15,535.

POLICE.

Two superintendents of police and one chief detective inspector retired on pension in the course of the year 1901.

One inspector resigned.

One chief inspector reverted to first class inspector.

One chief inspector was promoted to chief detective inspector.

Two first class inspectors were promoted to chief inspectors.

One first class inspector was promoted to acting chief inspector.

One inspector was reduced to sergeant for six months.

One chief inspector and two inspectors went on leave.

One sergeant was promoted to inspector.

Three sergeants were acting as inspectors.

Three sergeants were reduced to constables.

One sergeant and five European police constables were dismissed.

The following increases in the Sikh contingent were provided for to supply a small Police Force at Christmas Island:—

One corporal.

Seven constables.

The whole Sikh contingent has been fairly kept up to strength. The detachment of Sikhs formerly stationed at the Dindings was relieved by Malays in consequence of the prevalence of fever there.

Recruiting for the Malay contingent was on the whole slightly better than in the previous year.

Thirty Malays were transferred from Malacca to Singapore for duty.

The Detective Force worked fairly well.

There were twenty-five cases of murder and twenty-four cases of gang-robbery reported.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Colony which was 512,342 according to the Census of 1891 was returned by the Census of 1901 as 572,249. During the year 1901 there were registered 14,568 births, of which 7,573 were of male and 6,995 of female children.

The number of deaths registered was 22,876 as compared with 22,385 in 1900.

The public health of the Colony was not very good, the death-rate 39·85 being high, though only slightly higher than that for 1900, which stood at 39·46.

Zymotic disease was not very prevalent in the Colony as compared with last year. In Singapore 149 cases of cholera, of which 145 proved fatal, were reported. No cases were reported in the other Settlements. The cases of small-pox were considerably less than in the previous year, viz. :—

Settlement.	1900.		1901.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths
Signapore	220	91	62	14
Penang and Province Wellesley ...	297	77	41	15
Malacca	89	16	4	1

In Singapore and Penang the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the Municipalities. Both places have a good water supply; but there is a certain amount of overcrowding in the towns. The town of Malacca and the villages of Balik Pulau, Bukit Mertajam, Butterworth, Prai (and the adjacent sugar estate) and Nibong Tebal, enjoy water

supplies from Government reservoirs. Those in Province Wellesley however require certain improvements, which are to be carried out during the next two years.

CLIMATE.

The mean rainfall was, in inches, 83·56 in Singapore; 126·04 in Penang; 89·58 in the Dindings; 105·63 in Province Wellesley; and 87·13 in Malacca. The greatest fall in 24 hours was 7·50 inches at Malacca on the 6th February.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

An unusually heavy increase is recorded in the weight of the mails which passed through the hands of the Postal Department during the year 1901, as compared with 1900. Insurance and Parcel Post branches, as also the Chinese Sub-Post Office, continue to show steady progress. The Postal Revenue amounted to \$245,516 as compared with \$233,478 in 1900. The expenditure charged to 1901 was \$223,479, an increase of \$13,784 over the expenditure of the previous year. The Money Order business continues to increase. The transactions in sterling amounted to £17,049, in Indian currency to Rs. 1,824,573, and in local currency to \$355,239; the total business done thus aggregating \$1,789,794, and showing a distinct advance upon the total of \$1,729,791 for the year 1900.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley, and also the inland telegraphs in Malacca, all of which are connected with the Government system in the Federated Malay States, are the property of Government.

Singapore possesses a well-organized telephone system worked by the Oriental Electric and Telephone Company, which also works and maintains the Government telephone lines connecting the Government offices, police stations, &c.

In Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca, Government maintains its own lines. In Penang there are 136½ miles of service telephone lines, of which 49½ miles are connected with the Public Exchange and 87 miles not so connected. The mileage of subscribers' lines connected with the exchange is 105½ miles. The Telephone Exchange which is worked by Government was opened in Penang on the 1st March with 50 subscribers. On the 31st December there were 105 subscribers' lines and 22 service lines connected.

MILITARY.

The garrison of Singapore consists of His Majesty's Regular forces and Asiatic artillery. No militia force exists.

A valuable Volunteer Artillery force, 111 strong, exists in Singapore. Only Europeans are enlisted in it. Its principal armament consists of a complete battery of six 2·5 inch R.M.L. screw guns, utilised with 7 pr. limbers as a field battery with pony draught. It also possesses four Maxim guns ('45) in the use of which it is proficient. A Volunteer Rifle corps, 173 strong, also exists, composed of Europeans. A company of Eurasians and a company of Straits-born Chinese, each 100 strong, was also organized during the year. These three corps are armed with Lee-Enfield rifles and sword bayonets. A Volunteer Engineer corps, composed of Europeans, and a cadet corps, are in process of formation. A Volunteer infantry corps, 150 strong, also exists in Penang, and one is in process of formation in Malacca. The armanent consists of Martini-Enfield rifles with sword bayonets.

The constabulary force numbers nearly 2,000 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs. They are well drilled and armed.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year, in addition to the carrying on of works previously commenced, a considerable number of new projects were undertaken. Owing to the large demand for skilled labour on all sides, prices have advanced and progress on Public Works was not so expeditious as could be desired.

In the Budget were entered three large items which it was found advisable to postpone. These were the construction of the light house at Pulau Aor, canal to Keppel Harbour, and erection of a new museum and library.

Towards the end of the year the Colony secured the services of Mr. Matthews, C.M.G., of the firm of Coode, Son, and Matthews, to visit the Colony and report upon harbour improvements for the three Settlements.

In addition to the usual works of maintenance of roads and buildings the following projects were completed during the year:—

SINGAPORE.

Quarters for coolies, Tanah Merah magazine.

Magazine pier, Tanah Merah.

Quarters for mandore in charge of planting of gutta percha, Bukit Timah.

Completion of the new civil prison.

New quarters for boarding officers, Marine Department.

Erection of a furnace battery and the addition of a double roof to the Government analyst's office.

Temporary beri-beri ward for female patients, Pasir Panjang.

Erection of a building at the foot of Mount Palmer to contain the Singapore disinfecter.

Temporary ward at the Leper Asylum, Seranggong, to accommodate leper patients.

Construction of an examination depôt for immigrants at Telok Ayer.

Quarters for boatmen and gardeners, Christmas Island.

Progress was also made on the following works and buildings:—

Quarters for the Superintendent of Works and Surveys, Singapore.

New light house on Fort Canning.

Reclamation on sea face between the mole near the drill hall and Johnston's pier.

Alterations to Supreme Court.

Quarters at Christmas Island for the district officer, interpreter, and police.

Improvements to the rifle range, Balestier Plain.

Dredging Singapore River and removing rocks near the entrance.

Alterations to the General Post Office.

Completion of Telok Ayer sea wall and reclamation to Fort Palmer Point.

Under "roads, streets, bridges and canals," the following works were completed:—

Portable light railway and trucks for construction work.

Construction of a road from the municipal limit on Alexandra Road to near the tenth mile on Reformatory Road.

Additional culvert on the Kranji Road at 10½ mile.

New road from Tanjong Katong to Bedoh.

PENANG.

The following works and buildings were completed during the year:—

- Duplicating syphon across Prai River.
- New quarters for Lascars near the Marine Police quarters.
- Erection of quarters for Veterinary Inspector.
- Constructing separate lavatory for officers' quarters, General Hospital.
- Quarters for Chinese interpreters, Prison Department.
- Erection of servants' quarters, Leper Asylum, Pulau Jerejak.
- Teacher's quarters, Kuala Prai Vernacular School.
- Quarters for chief clerk and interpreter, Butterworth.
- Erection of clerks' quarters, Nibong Tebal.
- Erection of a brick building for district office, Nibong Tebal.
- Erection of two cells, General Hospital.
- Erecting four houses for public officers.
- Additions to jetty sheds.
- Erection of building to contain a disinfecter.
- Construction of quarters for Sikhs.
- Screw pile beacon.

Progress was also made on the following works and buildings:—

- Weld Quay reclamation.
- Sungei Pinang reclamation.
- Extension of Government offices.
- Erection of new Supreme Court.
- Exchange and club building.
- Erection of goods shed on New Reclamation.
- New reservoir, quarantine station.
- Reconstruction of Marine Police and Harbour Master's Department buildings.
- Drill hall for Penang Volunteers.
- Reclamation north of new iron pier.

MALACCA.

Quarters for six married constables were built at the Central Station.

A detailed survey of the proposed Malacca-Tampin railway was made.

Progress was made in widening the entrance to the Malacca River, on the construction of quarters for forester at Ayer Koroh, and on the erection of frontier pillars on the Malacca-Johol frontier.

The principal work carried out on roads has been the extension of the frontier road to Relau, a short length of road to connect Sungei Bharu with the Sungei Bharu—Kuala Linggi road near the 27th mile, and a bridge at Sungei Rambei. The Johore Government paid half of the cost of the last item. A deviation was also completed between the 17th and 18th miles on the Tampin road, and three new coolie lines were erected.

The usual maintenance services were carried out on buildings, roads, and bridges.

IMMIGRATION.

During the year immigration from Hong Kong was prohibited from the end of May to the beginning of August. Amoy and Swatow were both declared infected but immigration was not prohibited. These restrictions are becoming an annual feature on account of the regular visitation of plague in the southern ports of China.

The immigration figures for the last three years were:—

Year.				Male.	Female.	Total.
1899	...	...	...	141,980*	7,717	149,697
1900	...	...	...	188,965†	11,982	200,947
1901	...	...	...	166,956‡	11,822	178,778

* Of these 6,650 were children. † Of these 8,488 were children.
‡ Of these 8,147 were children.

The disproportion between the sexes still continues.

The number of immigrants from Southern India largely decreased, as will be seen from these figures:—

Immigrants.				1900.	1901.
1. Statute Immigrants	...	...	...	7,615	2,785
2. Free Coolies (with aided tickets)	...	...	...	7,052	8,476
3. Other Immigrants	...	...	...	23,862	21,998*

* Of these 2,902 were children.

During the year 15,434 adults and 770 minors left for Southern India.

The appointment of a Superintendent of Emigration at Negapatam has resulted in an improvement in the class of coolies arriving in the Colony, but, owing to the stricter examination, the numbers have decreased.

There has been a weekly service of steamers between Penang and Southern India throughout the year.

In the earlier part of the year there was a very high death-rate among the coolies on the Singapore-Johore railway, but this gradually fell off after proper medical attendance was arranged for.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The news of the death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria in January was received in this Colony with manifestations of deep sorrow on the part of all classes of the community. A memorial service was held in the cathedral on the 2nd February. His Majesty the King was proclaimed in each of the three Settlements on the 28th January in the presence of a large concourse of people.

Sir Alexander Swettenham, K.C.M.G., continued to administer the Government until the 18th February, when he went on leave. Sir Frank Swettenham, K.C.M.G., Resident-General of the Federated Malay States, replaced him as Administrator, and in September was appointed to be Governor of the Colony, High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States, and Consul-General for Borneo and Sarawak.

In the month of May the Colony was honoured by a visit from the Duke and Duchess of York, who remained three days in Singapore on their way to Australia. Their Royal Highnesses received many tokens of loyalty and devotion from the people of the Colony, and were pleased to express themselves much gratified with their reception.

The construction of the Singapore-Kranji Railway continued during the year, and it is hoped that it may be opened for traffic towards the end of 1902. It has been decided to eventually extend the line to the docks, *via* Kampong Saigon and Sepoy lines, and thence past Tanjong Pagar and the P. & O. Wharf to Keppel Harbour. The land required for this purpose will be acquired without delay. Negotiations are also on foot for leasing the railway to the Singapore Tramway Company who would probably use electricity as the motive power and would connect the Kranji line with their system of street tram lines.

In November, Mr. Matthews of the engineering firm of Coode, Son and Matthews, came to the Colony to enquire into and report upon the question of the improvement of harbour accommodation of each of the three Settlements. His recommendations include a protected harbour for local and coastwise shipping at Singapore and an extension of the iron pier now in course of construction in Penang. The carrying out of the last-named work has been already decided upon and arrangements have been made for borrowing a sum of \$600,000 for this work from the Government of the Federated Malay States. Final consideration of the Singapore scheme is deferred until the results of a preliminary survey recommended by Mr. Matthews are known. It is not proposed at present to take any steps to carry out Mr. Matthews's suggestions for improving the harbour of Malacca, as the trade of the place is not sufficient to justify the large expenditure that would be necessary.

The Prai-Taiping Railway progressed satisfactorily, the bridge over the Krian River having been almost completed by the end of the year, and the Perak section of the line all but finished.

A company of engineers, a corps of infantry, consisting of Straits-born Chinese and Eurasians, a cadet corps and a company at Malacca were added to the Volunteer Force of the Colony.

A successful agricultural show was held in Penang in July.

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

The prosperity of the Colony continues. The Census taken in 1901 shows a total population of 572,249, as against 512,342 in 1891, thus showing an increase of 59,907 during the past decade. This increase is accounted for entirely by immigration, nor indeed does it represent the true augmentation due to the influx of population, inasmuch as the birth-rate of the Colony itself is, owing to the paucity of women, much lower than the death-rate. The principal increase of population has been in the Settlement of Singapore, and China has supplied the greatest number of immigrants.

The cost of living continues to advance and the price of land and house-property has risen enormously, especially in Singapore. The price of labour and building materials has also increased, while the exchange value of the dollar has steadily declined.

The lighting of the town of Singapore has been much improved by the adoption of Welsbach incandescent burners in some of the principal thoroughfares.

The Singapore Tramway Company was formed during the year for the installation of electric tramways and the supply of electric energy in the town; the Company has obtained from the municipality a thirty-five years' concession for this purpose, and it is proposed to use electric power supplied by them to supplement the existing system of lighting by gas the streets of Singapore. An Ordinance has been passed to facilitate and legalize the operations of the Company, which will probably commence before the close of 1902.

The Penang Tramways were taken over by the Government early in the year, and have since been carried on by a lease on a short agreement. This arrangement is not satisfactory, and negotiations have been opened for letting the lines to the Singapore Tramway Company with a view to their being worked by electricity. The power supplied by the Company could also be utilized for the lighting of the town.

The increased output of tin in the Federated Malay States has led to further development of the tin smelting business in the Colony.

W. T. TAYLOR,

Colonial Secretary,

Straits Settlements.

Singapore, 24th June, 1902.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 338.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 303.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty,
October, 1901.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title-page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
313	Basutoland	1899
314	Hong Kong	1899-1900
315	Southern Nigeria	"
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899-1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899-1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados	"
327	Bahamas... ..	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia	"
333	Seychelles	"
334	Falkland Islands	"
335	Mauritius & Rodrigues	"
336	British New Guinea	1899-1900
337	Leeward Islands	1900

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Report on Operations in New Territory during 1900.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 303.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. MOLONEY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

August 12, 1901.

(Extract.)

I have the honour to transmit six copies of a Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for 1900, prepared by Mr. H. Clarence Bourne, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

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BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1900.

FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure.

In spite of the smallest sugar crop shipped for twenty years the record for 1900 has been very satisfactory. The estimated revenue, £668,000, was exceeded by nearly £31,000, while a saving of £8,000 was effected on the estimated expenditure.

2. The revenue for 1899 had shown great progress as compared with the preceding years. That for 1900 shows a further advance of £17,600. Of this about £5,500 is due to a new Stamp Act, and a great part of the balance to an increase for the year of the Immigration Tax. It is, however, a matter for satisfaction that the progress shown in the revenue for 1899 has been maintained. The receipts from Import duty and Excise have fallen only little short of those for that year. The ordinary Revenue, from which Land Sales, Royalties, and Immigration Taxes are excluded, exceeded the Recurrent Expenditure by £43,000.

Appendices A. and B.

3. The heads of Revenue and Expenditure are compared in detail with those of 1899 in Appendices A. and B. The following table gives the totals for the last six years:—

Year.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
			£	£
1895	...	...	598,884	605,514
1896	...	...	618,332	594,462
1897	...	...	611,434	622,364
1898	...	...	615,371	640,952
1899	...	...	681,339	748,151(a)
1900	...	...	812,303(b)	696,880(a)

The totals marked (a) include sums of £75,561 and £37,801, spent in 1899 and 1900 respectively, on account of the unissued balance of the authorised Loan, while that marked (b) includes £113,362 subsequently credited to Revenue, when advances to

that amount were raised against the scrip of the Loan. If we eliminate these figures the true totals for the last two years are:—

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Year.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
			£	£
1899	681,339	672,590
1900	698,939	659,079

Assets and Liabilities.

4. The surplus, as shown by the books of the Treasury at the end of 1900, was £109,868. But this surplus gives no measure of the resources of the Colony. While the Public Debt is omitted from the one side of the balance sheet, no account is taken among the Assets of the railways, roads, buildings, steamers, estates and other property acquired out of either Loan moneys or General Revenue; nor of the unsold Crown Lands, the Pitch Lake, or the mines and minerals reserved to the Crown and not yet worked.

Public Debt.

5. The Public Debt of the Colony at the end of 1900 amounted to £918,472, and the annual charges on its account for last year were £50,623. Of the last authorised loan £200,000 is still un-issued, but over £100,000 has been borrowed on the security of the scrip, and applied to the Loan Works. The railway, harbour and building works chargeable to this loan have been completed; the water and sewerage works are now in progress.

Railways.

More than three quarters of the Public Debt is represented by directly remunerative works. Of the total debt about £630,000 is attributable to the railway, which continues to pay its working expenses and to contribute nearly the whole of the interest paid by the Colony in respect of the capital expended upon it. The expenditure on harbour works has been £140,000, and the revenue from port, harbour and wharf dues has been in each of the past two years over £10,000.

Harbour.

A special survey of the harbour is now being made with a view to the consideration of further and larger harbour improvements.

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Roads.

With the exception of a Road Loan of £100,000 contracted eleven years ago, the construction of roads has hitherto been defrayed entirely out of revenue. The need of a complete road system throughout Trinidad, connecting the settled districts and opening new country, has long been recognized, and is now about to be carried out. The total mileage of metalled main roads was 175 at the beginning, and 193 at the end, of last year; but as yet no metalled road connects any point on the North, the East, or the South coast of Trinidad, either with any town or with the railway system. It is proposed that the scheme shall be executed partly out of revenue and partly by raising a further loan of about £150,000.

Immigration.

Another source of expenditure regularly incurred for the development of the Colony, and yet defrayed entirely from annual revenue, is the provision of labour. Immigration from India is undertaken at great annual cost. The larger part is met by an export tax on sugar and cocoa, the industries most immediately benefitted.

Crown Lands.

6. The development of the road system will greatly promote the realization of the unoccupied Crown Lands and unworked minerals. The area of Trinidad is about that of Lancashire. Considerably more than half is still Crown property. Most of this is cultivable, and much is covered by valuable timber, while below the surface coal, asphalt and petroleum are being constantly reported. The acreage of Crown Lands alienated in 1900 was 13,855, against 14,629 in 1899. These were the subject of 1,422 different grants. Four hundred and ninety-two of the grantees were East Indians.

Taxation.

7. One other important asset remains to be mentioned; the margin of taxable capacity is considerable. The taxation per head in England, exclusive of local rates, was lately estimated at £2 10s. 6d. per annum. To obtain a similar estimate for this Colony we must eliminate from our calculation receipts from the Government Railway, Government Post Office, Court Fees, and various reimbursements in aid. Even if we count harbour dues as taxation, a revenue of £475,000, raised from a population of 275,000, gives an average of £1 14s. 6½d. per head. This is a lower rate per head than prevailed here twenty years ago. Moreover there are no local rates except in the towns. The costs of education, Police, roads, poor relief, are all borne by the Colonial Revenue. The land tax is one shilling an acre in Trinidad, and

sixpence (at present) in Tobago, with a house tax of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on annual value, or 4s. where the value is not more than £5.

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Local Rates.

The only local rates are as follows:—

Port-of-Spain House Rate	...	$7\frac{1}{2}$	per cent. on annual value.
" Water "	...	2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$	per cent. on annual value.
" (part)Sewerage Rate	2	per cent. on annual value.	
San Fernando House Rate	...	7	" " " *
" Water "	...	7	" " " "
Arima House Rate	...	5	" " " "
" Water "	...	3	" " " "
Tunapuna Water Rate	...	$7\frac{1}{4}$	" " " "

The house rate is of course in every case paid in lieu of the House Tax.

Taxes are paid chiefly in the form of duty on imports and excise on rum. As regards the former there is a large free list—thirty per cent. of last year's imports were admitted free, and the *ad valorem* duty on goods not the subject of specific duty—i.e., about half the dutiable imports—has long remained at five per cent. These facts should be considered with the agricultural and trade statistics of the Colony, with those of the Savings Bank and the sale of Crown Lands, and with any others which throw light on the savings of the labouring classes. If this be done, and we also note the visible signs of comfort and prosperity, the ease with which amusements are paid for and Police Court fines met, together with the leisure, which in spite of the demand for labour, is enjoyed by all classes, we are justified in describing the burden of taxation as very light.

Local Finance.

8. The local, as distinguished from the Colonial, revenues are of small importance. The municipality of Port-of-Spain, now in commission, had with its rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. an income of nearly £28,400 in 1900. The water and sewerage rates are levied, not by the Commissioners but by the Government. Its average annual income for the preceding four years had been under £20,000, and its expenditure £600 greater. Its debt of £37,800 is secured on the rates. The incomes of San Fernando and Arima are under £5,500 and £1,500 respectively. In the case of each of the three new waterworks authorities, viz., those for San Fernando, Arima, and Tunapuna, the rate was fixed for the first year at seven per cent. on the rateable value. The Arima authority has found itself in a position to reduce the rate for the second year of its existence to 5 per cent. The nine Local Road Boards are, with the Borough Councils of San Fernando

* San Fernando House Rate now (1901) 5 per cent.

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and Arima, the only elective bodies in the Colony. These Boards receive grants from the Government for the maintenance of local roads, and also have the power of levying a local rate. Though increased subsidies are constantly asked for, this power has in no instance been exercised, and it is improbable that any member who proposed a rate would stand a chance of re-election.

Currency.

9. The finance of the Colony is not complicated by questions of currency. Though silver is legal tender to any amount, this Colony is fortunately free from the difficulties incidental to a silver standard. As there is no local coinage and the only silver recognised is English token money, twenty shillings are always worth a pound. There is, however, a practical inconvenience arising from the system. Gold is, of course, never seen, and consequently the five-dollar notes of the Colonial Bank are the only medium of exchange for amounts over one pound. As these are by the constitution of the Bank, and the requirements of its other branches, limited to an issue below the requirements of the Colony, trade is liable to be hampered at the briskest season of the year.

Price of Money.

The rate of discount allowed by the Bank for good three months notes has been six per cent. per annum throughout the year. Ninety day bills for £100 payable in London have been bought at \$474-\$475½; and similar bills on London issued at \$480-\$481½. The rate of interest on the best securities is now 6 per cent., and mortgagors have even got money from England at 5 per cent.; but local investors generally obtain 8 per cent. on first mortgages.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES.

Imports and Exports.

10. The value of the imports into the Colony in 1900 was £2,500,000, or within £36,000 of those of 1899, which had shown an increase of more than a quarter of a million over those of 1898. Leaving out of account bullion and specie, which amounted to £125,000, the imports for 1900 exceeded those for 1899 by £92,000. The exports amounted to £2,593,000, being an increase of £21,000 over the preceding year. The shortage of the sugar crop caused a diminution of £80,000 in the value of the exported produce of the Colony.

Appendices C. and D.

In Appendix C will be found a statement of the exports and imports for 1900, and the five previous years, and Appendix D gives the values of the staple exports during the same period.

The following table giving the average annual aggregate of imports and exports for the last four quinquennial periods, indicates the steady progress of trade during the last twenty years of the century:—

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Year.				Amount
				£
1881-1885	3,267,000
1886-1890	3,424,000
1891-1895	3,746,000
1896-1900	4,034,000

Shipping: Appendix E.

The particulars of the shipping in 1900 are given in Appendix E., which shows the aggregate tonnage of the vessels entered or cleared from or to the countries with which the trade of Trinidad is chiefly concerned. The aggregate entries for the past three years respectively have been:

Year.				Tons.
1898	...	...	...	582,955
1899	...	...	...	632,131
1900	...	...	...	592 097

Direction of Trade.

Appendix E. must be compared with Appendix F., which indicates the channels in which the trade of the Colony for the past four years has been flowing. During that period the annual value of the trade with Great Britain and the United States has averaged £1,696,000 and £1,337,000 respectively. The results shown are determined mainly by the destination of the staple products, sugar, cocoa and asphalt. The Collector of Customs has recently prepared diagrams which show the great fluctuations which have taken place during the past twenty years in the relative quantities of sugar shipped respectively to the English, American and other foreign markets. Trinidad sugar goes almost wholly to Great Britain or the United States. From

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1881 to 1885 the latter took the slightly larger proportion of the crop. In the following quinquennial period the States took more than double the quantity shipped to England. Since then the English market has gradually regained favour, and the shipments for the past five years have been almost equally divided between the two markets. These diagrams give little indication that the countervailing duty imposed by the United States has operated to transfer our sugar trade to that country. The United Kingdom and France are Trinidad's best customers for cocoa. For the past five years their purchases have been about equal. Those of the United States are less, but are steadily increasing. The bulk of the asphalt goes to the United States.

Transit Trade.

11. Our transit trade, that is to say as much of it as is indicated by official records, is at present about a quarter of the total trade of the Colony. It consists almost entirely of Venezuelan trade, and three quarters of our Venezuelan trade is transit trade. Not only are goods transhipped at Port-of-Spain in transit between Venezuela and Europe or the United States, but often also between one part of Venezuela and another. The Gulf of Paria, in which not only Port-of-Spain but four out of the five small ports of entry of Trinidad are situated, is a vast natural harbour into which one of the mouths of the Orinoco flows; and all communication between Caracas and that great water highway lies through it. The imposition by Venezuela about ten years ago of an additional duty of 30 per cent. on imports from Trinidad crippled the trade with the mainland which was rapidly developing, but, thanks to our natural advantages of position, it has by no means killed it. Open boats are constantly coming and going between the Republic and the Colony, and the large stores of Port-of-Spain depend for much of their retail custom on buyers from the Venezuelan capital. The valley of the Orinoco is generally recognised as of great potential wealth, and that river has navigable tributaries connecting it on the one hand with the upper waters of the Amazon and on the other approaching within fifty miles of the capital of Columbia. Already there is one shipping and trading company, which has its head quarters at Port-of-Spain, engaged in navigating the river Orinoco. Without attempting to prophesy what fortune the proximity of that great waterway may bring to Trinidad in the future, we may at least say that the possibilities of the Colony are not limited to its agricultural resources; and the recent discoveries of coal in the Colony may prove to have a special value in this connection. Moreover when we come to consider the mineral wealth of Trinidad, we must bear in mind that geographically and geologically Trinidad is only a fragment broken off from the vast Continent of South America.

The Carrying Trade.

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12. The extent to which the trade of the Colony is done on British bottoms is shown in Appendix G. France is the nearest competitor, but her tonnage is only one-fourth of the British. The chief steamship lines calling at Trinidad and Tobago, with the number of calls paid last year, and their routes, are shown in the following table:—

Name of Line.	No. Arrived during 1900.	Route.
Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (Intercolonial Steamers).	51	Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Trinidad, Tobago, and La Guayra, and the same ports on the return trip, connecting with outward and homeward mail steamers at Barbados.
Cargo and chartered steamers	26	Barbados, Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent, Jamaica, and other ports as the cargo requires.
Compagnie Générale Transatlantique (French Mail Steamers).	44	Marseilles, Bordeaux, St. Nazaire, Havre, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Venezuela, &c., and back on return voyage.
Scrutton's "London and Glasgow Direct Steamers."	49	London or Glasgow to Barbados, Trinidad, Demerara, Grenada, St. Vincent, and the Leeward Islands, returning home generally <i>via</i> Trinidad, Barbados, or St. Lucia.
The Leyland Line (The old W.I. and P.S.S. Company).	16	Liverpool to Barbados, Trinidad, Venezuela, New Orleans, and back to Liverpool.
The Harrison Line ...	15	Liverpool to Barbados, Trinidad, Venezuela, New York, and back to Liverpool.
Koninklijke West-Indische Maildienst (Dutch Mail Steamers).	43	Amsterdam, Surinam, Demerara, Trinidad, Venezuela, New York, and returning the same route to Amsterdam.
Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company.	18	New York to Grenada and Trinidad, and same route back.
Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company's Steamers.	43	To and from Ciudad Bolivar, and connecting there with up river steamers.
Hamburg and American Line.	12	Hamburg to St. Thomas, Trinidad, and back.
Pickford and Black Line (Canadian Steamers).	30	Halifax, Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad, Demerara, and back to Halifax by same route.
Italian Steamers (La Veloce).	6	Mediterranean Ports, Teneriffe, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Venezuela, and back.

Conditions of Trade.

13. The tariff of the Colony is substantially a revenue and not a protective one. There is, however, an import duty of 10s. per

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100 lbs. on sugar, and the absence of any excise on tobacco, matches, oil, or rice, all of which are produced locally, and on all of which there is an import duty, operates protectively. Moreover the excise duty on rum is 7s. 6d. a gallon, while the import duty on spirits is 10s. 6d.; and on the recent establishment of a brewery the same relative amount of protection has been accorded to beer brewed in the Colony. In the early part of last year suggestions for reciprocity with the United States and with Canada were, with the approval of the Secretary of State, discussed, and though in both cases the most friendly spirit was shown, the Legislative Council of the Colony came in the end to the conclusion that it was unnecessary and undesirable at present to incur the obligations which reciprocity would entail.

Canada.

Canada, which has long supported a religious Mission in Trinidad, is now represented by an accredited Commercial Agent. The volume of trade with the Dominion is at present intrinsically small, but there is a desire in many quarters to extend it; and the Trinidad exhibits at a recent Halifax Exhibition attracted much attention. An instance of the investment of Canadian capital in the Colony has occurred within the present year in the acquisition by a Canadian Company of the Tramway and Electric Lighting systems of Port-of-Spain.

Export Duties.

In connection with protection reference may be made to the export duties on sugar, cocoa, and asphalt. The duty on the last is, under the peculiar circumstances of the trade, to which allusion is made below, in the nature of a royalty rather than of a tax. The tax on sugar and cocoa is levied specially to defray part of the cost of importing labour for the benefit of those industries.

PRODUCTS OF THE COLONY.

Staples.

14. Of the staple products of the Colony the values of the exports were as follows:—

Staple Products.					Value.	
						£
Cocoa (local)	...	...	...	...	(271,284 cwt.)	852,000
Sugar	...	...	...	...	(40,620 tons)	552,000
Asphalt	...	...	...	...	(159,752 „)	177,000

The value of the sugar crop was £68,000 below the average for the past five years, and £157,000 below that of the last quarter of a century. Cocoa, on the other hand, exceeded the past five years' average by £188,000, and that of twenty-five years by £386,000. The prices of sugar and cocoa obtained in the London market are set out for reference in Appendix H. Asphalt showed far the largest output on record, being £40,000 and £102,000 respectively in excess of the averages for five and for twenty-five years.

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Cocoa.

15. The area under Cocoa cultivation is nearly twice that under sugar, and is extending daily. Cocoa is not like sugar a manufacture, and a given quantity of it represents a far less expenditure on wages than in the case of its rival: but it can claim to maintain a much larger number of peasant proprietors, and even the large estates are for the most part owned by residents in the Colony. The Cocoa crop of last year exceeded that of 1899 by 1,100,000 pounds. This increase was due partly to extended cultivation and partly to a favourable season. The average prices obtained were lower, London prices varying from 68s. to 75s. per cwt., a fall of about 5s. from those of 1899. But it paid to ship Cocoa when in 1896 the prices had fallen to 45s., and the cost of production, apart from rent and interest on capital, is generally estimated at not more than 27s. a cwt. Though the world's production of Cocoa is being greatly extended, its consumption is also increasing rapidly.

Sugar.

16. The dry weather which prevailed during the growing season made the 1900 crop of sugar a very bad one. Of the total shortage, 12,000 tons, 1,500 may be attributed to the semi-abandonment of estates north of the Caroni River, and the rest to the effects of unfavourable weather in the districts south of Chaguanas. The shortage in the weight of cane per acre swelled the cost of growth, and the inferior quality of the canes increased the cost of manufacture. Hence the total cost of production was exceptionally high, but estates were saved by the high prices realized by offal crop, rum and molasses. Leaving out of account capital and depreciation charges, it is possible that £1 a ton profit was made on the sale of yellow sugars in the London market. On the other hand the grey sugars shipped to America were probably sold at an average loss of 2s. a ton on the cost of production.

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The present year's crop (1901) has been above the average, and in the South the factories have been taxed to their utmost capacity to reap it. Yet, though heavy crops have reduced the cost of production considerably below that of last year, low prices, further depressed by the importation into England of large stocks of Continental sugar in anticipation of the new Import Duty, have, as far as the London market is concerned, more than neutralized that advantage. One-third only of the sugar shipped to London arrived in time to escape the duty. Many estates have probably lost money, or only saved cost; but the following is an estimate of the average cost of production and net price realized per ton:—

—	Cost.			Price.			Profit.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Yellow Sugars (for London Market)	10	5	0	11	0	0	0	15	0
Grey Sugars (for American Market)	9	0	0	10	0	0	1	0	0

Cane-farming.

Sugar, if not the chief product, is the chief manufacture of the Colony. A hundred years ago the boiling house was a mere adjunct to the cane-fields; but the modern usine represents an amount of capital exceeding the value of the land from which it is supplied with canes. To give an illustration: The usine of St. Augustine with its groups of estates, comprising about 4,500 acres, lying near the old capital of St. Joseph, was closed last year; and though the usine contained machinery which had cost, apart from buildings and tramways, £30,000, yet, as there was no demand for it as a going concern, the Government was able to acquire the whole property for £9,100. Improvements in the process of manufacture, and the development of machinery have led to concentration of capital, a reduction in the number of factories and the consolidation of estates. Though last year sugar was made at twenty-six factories, thirteen manufactured less than a thousand tons. One usine was closed last year and one this. Though the so-called planter has long been primarily a manufacturer, his factory has, until recent years, been fed entirely from his own estates. Under this system the losses suffered in bad seasons have fallen on a small number of owners, and their capital and credit has been often insufficient for the heavy calls upon them. Lately, however, the cane farmer has come into existence, and the rapid growth of the industry is

shown in the following table, prepared by the Government Analyst from returns published by the Agricultural Society.

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Year.	Total Sugar Pro- duction.	Estate- grown Canes.	Cane Farmers.			
			Canes.	Price Paid.	Number and Nationality.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons	Dols.	E. Indians.	W. Indians.
1895	55,000	—	35,000	—	—	—
1896	59,000	—	75,000	—	3,744	—
1897	55,000	—	—	—	—	—
1898	58,000	—	105,000	203,000	2,326	3,824
1899	58,800	426,000	106,000	219,000	2,826	3,870
1900	46,000	364,000	106,000	228,000	2,826	3,591

In the present year the quantity of farmers' canes ground has been nearly 170,000 tons.

Many of the cane farmers are small peasants owning or renting only a few acres, which they and their families can cultivate without additional labour. They are generally dependent upon advances from the manufacturer, and the weak point in the system, from their point of view, is that, owing partly to geographical position, and partly to indebtedness, they have generally only one market to which they can take their canes. A sliding scale, however, regulating the payment for canes, is generally adopted by the parties, the price paid being determined by that ruling in the London or New York market at the time of delivery. Movements, moreover, are on foot in two parts of the Island, one in the North and one in the South, for the establishment of small co-operative societies to supply the farmers with the requisite advances. Of these one is proceeding on the well-known lines of the Raffeisen Banks, the other will allow the division of profits. Co-operation not only gives hope for greater stability to the sugar industry, by making the labourer share profits or losses with the capitalist, but it probably operates to cheapen labour, as Creole and Indian alike prefer growing canes in their own plot to working as labourers on the estates; and they are willing to sell the canes at a price that is below that of which the estates can, at any rate with free labour, produce them. It is interesting to record that since the closing of St. Augustine, which it was feared would lead to much

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local loss of employment and consequent distress, the land has been readily let in small holdings to farmers, and it is possible that within a few years as large an acreage will be under canes as was the case when the estate was worked as a whole. One drawback to cane farming must, however, be pointed out. The farmer is less alive than the estate owner to the advantages to be derived from economic cultivation, the use of manure, the adoption of improvements, and the selection of canes.

Other Agricultural Products.

17. Though cocoa and sugar will remain the chief exports of this Colony for many years to come, there are several minor cultivations, of which some are likely to extend. Many tracts of land are suitable for the production of coconuts and nothing else, but the margin of profit is small and the export is not likely to increase. The value of home-grown nuts and copra exported last year was under £19,000. Coffee is grown for local consumption, but its exports are not of much importance. The hills of Trinidad attain only in a very few places the altitude which is thought necessary for its successful cultivation. Though limes, oranges, and other fruit could be grown in any quantity, crops of this nature do not offer a profit to tempt planters who can grow cocoa.

Rubber.

Rubber is the only new cultivation which, as far as present indications go, is likely to provide a staple export in the future. It is as yet, however, in an experimental stage. There are some eight plantations in Trinidad and two in Tobago. Several large sales of Crown Land in Trinidad have been recently made on the understanding that they are to be devoted to this cultivation. It is also extending yearly in Tobago, chiefly in combination with cocoa. The rubber chiefly planted is the Central America tree, *Castilloa Elastica*. Of this sort there are 100,000 trees planted in Tobago, as well as some thousands of the Brazilian "Mouchet." The former promises to be the more profitable. The West African silk rubber has also been recently introduced, and its importers are hopeful of its success. The greater part of the plantations are still quite young—from one to four years old—and no large return can be anticipated until they have been seven or eight years in existence. The quality appears to be good. A sample of *Castilloa* grown and prepared on this Richmond Estate was sent to England last year, and was valued by experts at 3s. 6d. per lb.

Potential Industries.

18. It is often a matter of comment that Trinidad, in spite of its natural advantages, should import annually many thousands of pounds' worth of vegetables from other islands and Venezuela. This is partly due no doubt to the fact that transport by sea is

cheaper than across country where the roads are bad, but the main cause is of course the fact that those who might be gardeners are engaged in a more profitable industry. Should sugar fail, and cocoa cease to be as profitable as it is at present, Trinidad would devote more of its attention to supplying its own needs. The cultivation of rice is indeed extending rapidly on lands little suited for the growth of other products, fostered no doubt by the protection afforded by the import duty; but there is a consumption of imported rice to the value of about £18,000, which the Colony could produce for itself, if it were not more profitably employed. Stock-farming is in an analogous position. The experiments made at the Government Farm, and by private individuals, show that a fair profit can be made from home-grown beef. Yet Trinidad has until lately imported beef from Venezuela to the value of nearly £50,000 a year, and is still doing so to the extent of nearly £30,000.

Asphalt.

19. Of the mineral products of the Colony, asphalt is, as is well known, by far the most important. The asphalt trade was more prosperous in 1899 than in any previous year of its history. Yet it made a still further advance in 1900. The main source of supply is the Pitch Lake, which is leased to a company for a term of which twenty-eight years have still to run. The lake is practically inexhaustible, but the lessees are not bound to ship annually a quarter of the quantity which they actually exported last year. Of the 160,000 tons shipped in 1900, 33,311 tons were exported by independent diggers. In 1896 the latter produced only 9,000 tons, but the industry has increased regularly year by year.

Coal.

Coal has long been known to exist in various parts of Trinidad. Recent analyses have given good results; and experiments are about to be made to test the commercial value of the deposits. Several applications have also recently been made by private individuals for licenses to prospect for coal; and there is every indication that in the course of the next few years this industry will be vigorously exploited.

Mineral Oils.

Applications to prospect for mineral oils have also been received by the Government; and in one spot an oil spring has been discovered which gives promise of considerable possibilities.

Manufactures.

20. With the exception of a Brewery and a Match Factory, the manufactures of the Colony are mainly the outcome of her agriculture. Reference has already been made to the chief of these, sugar. To five of the usines rum distilleries are attached. There are also two distilleries in Tobago. Two-thirds of the rum made is consumed locally, and the excise on it, at 7s. 6d. a

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gallon, yields a large revenue. Last year it amounted to £104,451. The Brewery, which was opened in 1899, brews from imported materials, and receives the same protection against imported beer as is given to rum against imported spirits. Angostura bitters, a composition of rum, is made (by a secret process) exclusively at Messrs. Seigert's factory in Trinidad. 37,138 gallons were exported last year. There are three coconut-oil factories equipped with modern machinery, and in addition to local business, 12,584 gallons of oil were shipped in 1900.

LEGISLATION.

21. Thirty-four Ordinances passed into Law in 1900. None are of very general interest outside the Colony. They include Ordinances for the consolidation of the law respecting Prisons and corporal punishment, for the regulation of pensions to Civil Servants, and for the construction of a system of underground sewerage in Port-of-Spain. During the early period of British occupation legislation was chiefly concerned in the gradual introduction of English Common Law and Equity, and few traces of Spanish Law, except as regards the descent of realty, now remain in force. In more recent years contemporary English legislation affecting real and personal property and commercial and criminal law has generally been followed by this Colony; but there have been certain notable exceptions (*e.g.*, in the matter of Bankruptcy), where English enactments have not coincided with local sentiment. In a few matters, *e.g.*, the Registration of Title, the Colony has taken its own line; and other special circumstances have called for special legislation.

EDUCATION.

Primary.

22. The following table shows the number of Primary schools, Government and assisted, in the Colony:—

Denomination.	Number.
Government	56
Roman Catholic	67
Church of England	49
Canadian Mission (Presbyterian)	48
Wesleyan	11
Moravian	8
Total	239

The cost per head to the Government of each child in a Government school is £2 6s. 8½d. per annum, or taking into account repairs of buildings, and fees, &c., £2 3s. 2d.; and in assisted schools £1 13s. 5d. The amount of assistance given to denominational schools (¾ of the cost) is very large as compared with that given in other countries, but, on the other hand, the Government acquires in return a large power of control, notably the right of approving the appointment of every teacher. The cost of the Government schools last year, exclusive of administration and inspection, was £10,322, and the Government's contribution to the denominational schools over £23,558. The fees paid amounted to only £2,352. The total number of children on the rolls was 30,693, and the number present at the examinations 24,649. Attendance is voluntary. It is interesting to note that more than a quarter of the assisted schools are managed by a Canadian Mission which from first to last has spent half a million sterling in the Colony. Special efforts are now being made to adapt the elementary school course to the needs of an agricultural country; and from the beginning of 1901 agriculture is a compulsory subject in the primary schools. Most of the teachers have already attended courses of instruction given by the Government Analyst and the Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens.

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Secondary.

23. For Secondary Education Trinidad depends on the Queen's Royal College (a Government undenominational institution with about 100 boys), and its affiliated colleges. There are entrance examinations from the elementary schools and examinations from the colleges, tenable at English Universities and other educational institutions. The affiliated colleges are St. Mary's College (a Roman Catholic school), which has twice as many pupils as the Royal College, and a school managed by the Canadian Mission, recently admitted to the privileges of affiliation.

Technical.

24. Practical chemistry is taught at the Government Laboratory in connection with the Royal College; and, in the interests of secondary agricultural education a system of cadetship has been introduced at the St. Clair experimental grounds. The facilities for technical education of other sorts are few. The Victoria Institute, which controls itself but receives a subsidy from the Government, has made a commencement in this direction, and its building and commercial classes have been well attended. There are, however, difficulties to be overcome, over and above those which can be met by the expenditure of money. Competition is not sufficiently keen to force the artisan generally to realize the need of self-improvement. The objects of the

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Institute are more fully appreciated by employers, who recently subscribed £2,000 for a new wing to be erected in memory of Queen Victoria.

Botanical Stations.

25. The primary functions of the Botanical and Agricultural Departments are also educational, and, though the sale and distribution of plants and seeds is an important part of the work of the Botanic Gardens at St. Ann's and Tobago, more general interest attaches to the experimental work. Of the work done at the St. Clair experimental station, which was started in 1898, the growth of seedling canes is the most immediately important. Samples have been examined by the Government Analyst, and the results obtained are available for the public. These show that canes can be produced which will yield a larger percentage of saccharine matter than is obtained from those at present grown on the estates. Whether, however, they will give a greater yield per acre is still the subject of investigation; and a larger acreage than was available at the Gardens has been reserved at Valsayn (one of the St. Augustine group of estates to which reference has been made) with a view to pursuing the necessary experiments on a larger scale.

The Government Farm.

26. The Government Farm was, at the end of last year, removed from the suburbs of Port-of-Spain to Valsayn (one of the St. Augustine group of estates). Its first object is to improve the stock of the Colony, but the performance of the subsidiary functions of supplying Government Institutions with milk enables it to pay its way. The Tobago Farm has now been in existence for more than a year. In Tobago, unlike Trinidad, excellent grass is everywhere indigenous, and good ultimate results are anticipated.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Medical.

27. Reference has already been made to the Educational Institutions. Those subordinated to the Medical Department are more conspicuous. The Colonial Hospital at Port-of-Spain is one of the handsomest buildings of the Colony, and well found in every way. The number of beds is now 320, though there is accommodation for a much larger number. The number of beds in the Colonial Hospital at San Fernando is 120. There are eight district hospitals and three general dispensaries. Three general hospitals for yaws—a curable but insidious disease common to the West Indies—have recently been opened in Trinidad with promising results, and one is about to be opened in Tobago. A segregation hospital for infectious diseases was also erected last year.

Lunatics.

The new Lunatic Asylum, erected at a cost of nearly £50,000, was occupied last year. It is one of the finest buildings in the Colony.

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Lepers.

The Leper Asylum is an old building in a suburb of the capital, under the supervision of a Government Medical Officer, but managed by the Little Sisters of St. Dominic. It operates mainly as a poor-house for those who are debarred by leprosy from earning a livelihood. Compulsory detention and strict segregation have never been enforced in the past. Hence its accessibility would afford exceptional opportunities for the bacteriologist.

Paupers.

28. There is no poor law in the Colony. The House of Refuge which had 324 inmates at the end of 1900, as against 224 at the end of 1899, affords practically the only form of non-medical poor relief provided by the Government. The Wardens, among whom the Colony is divided for miscellaneous administrative purposes, have small sums at their disposal which are applicable to expenditure incidental to Medical relief, and when laxity in the administration of the Wardens' funds has been permitted applicants have rapidly multiplied, but this laxity has never been allowed to proceed far enough to produce a pauper class.

The whole of the Colony is divided into medical districts, each of which has in the past been under the care of a Government Medical Officer; but it has been thought right to give a trial to the system adopted in developed countries, and in the case of one district the statutory medical services are now performed under contract by a local practitioner.

Reformatories.

29. Other curative institutions are two reformatories and two certified industrial schools. One of each class is under the care of the English and Roman Catholic Churches respectively.

Savings Bank.

30. The growth of the business of the Government Savings Bank has led to its separation from the Treasury. The deposits in 1900 amounted to £226,689, being £4,552 in excess of those of 1899, and the withdrawals £210,931, being £2,631 less than the year previously. The balance of deposits at the end of the year amounted to £266,394. The interest allowed is three per cent.; the interest earned averages 3·15. The number of open accounts on the 31st of December last was 13,464, an increase of 915. Of these depositors 5,367 were Indians.

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JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

31. The Police Force consists of five officers and 550 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and constables, exclusive of the Band.

Prisons.

32. The Prisons have, under recent management, attained a high level of efficiency, and the Inspector's reports are borne out by both criminal statistics and economic results. In the case of a few remote districts of Trinidad prisoners committed summarily for a few days necessarily serve out their sentence at the local police station, which is licensed for the purpose as a district prison, and the same arrangements will apply when the old Tobago prison has been closed. In all other cases the prisoner is committed to the Royal Gaol, of which the male branch is in Port-of-Spain, and the female at St. James's. Males sentenced to long terms are transferred to the convict dépôt at Carrera, an island in the Gulf of Paria. Each prisoner occupies a separate cell. The staple occupations of the male convicts are quarrying, breaking stones, and fibre picking; but those undergoing a long sentence are encouraged to learn a trade. The value of the labour done by convicts for other Government departments in 1900 is estimated at over £1,600. Deterrent as are the conditions, anæmic prisoners benefit in health by their stay in gaol. The cost of the prisons last year was £8,666. The average number of prisoners in all the prisons was 441. This is slightly less than last year, and more than 100 less than the average of six years ago. The total number of committals in Trinidad—4,100—was 163 below the average of the previous four years; the committals in Tobago were 100. The committals for penal imprisonment on indictment and summary conviction were 86 and 2,979 respectively. The committals for prædial larceny were 36·5 above the average of the previous four years. 804 committals were for breaches of indenture under the Immigration law. The following table is compiled from the records of the Police:—

—	No. of Persons Charged.	Committed or Convicted.	Unprosecuted Crimes.
Offences against the person (serious)	2,745	1,364	26
" " (minor)	660	428	—
Offences against property ...	1,964	928	157
Other offences ...	20,591	15,370	13

VITAL STATISTICS.

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33. The population of the Colony, as ascertained by the preliminary returns of the census of this year, is about 272,000, of which about 18,750 is attributable to Tobago. The population of Trinidad has increased by about 53,000 in the last decade; that of Tobago by a few hundreds only. The results have fallen short of the estimate based on the annual returns of the Registrar-General and the Harbour Master, the error being caused by the inevitable incompleteness of the records of departures from the Colony. The non-Christian population, which is practically equivalent to the number of East Indians who have not abjured the native creeds, is about 78,000. No further classification according to race is possible. Throughout the bulk of the population the proportion of African and European blood in each individual is unascertainable. The oldest Creole families of European extraction are of French or Spanish origin, and a Corsican element has contributed many Italian names. A French *patois* is the common language in the north of Trinidad, and in certain parts Spanish is generally spoken. In Port-of-Spain there are always Venezuelan Spaniards, and many Portuguese shop-keepers. In the country the shops are frequently kept by Chinese. Classified according to religion the Christian population appears as:—

Christian Population.				Numbers.
Roman Catholics	...	...	...	89,178
Church of England	...	...	...	74,549
Others	...	...	...	29,771

The population of the capital, Port-of-Spain, is 55,000, and that of San Fernando, the second town, 7,641. The birth-rate of the Colony for 1900 was approximately 37·4 per thousand. Leaving out of account East Indians whose marriages, though generally effected according to native custom, are for the most part invalid in law, the births registered as illegitimate were about 3,500, or nearly 400 in excess of the legitimate.

Public Health.

34. The death-rate of the Colony for 1900 was approximately 25·8. The general health has been satisfactory, though an epidemic of influenza caused a rise in the mortality for several months.

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Sanitation.

The greater part of Port-of-Spain has hitherto been without sewers. Householders have to provide for the emptying of their cesspits, while the refuse water from baths and from the kitchen finds its way to the sea along the gutters of the streets. The construction of a complete underground system is now in full progress; and the fear felt in some quarters that the public health would suffer from the turning up of the soil has happily hitherto been falsified. When the work is completed it cannot fail to improve the condition of the capital, which already claims a good sanitary position among tropical towns. Provision is also being made not only in Port-of-Spain, but throughout the towns and larger villages of the Colony, for a regular supply of wholesome water. The completion of the works in progress will not only reduce the danger of epidemics, but will greatly conduce to the comfort of the people.

Climate.

Though the climate of Trinidad is generally described as trying, it is never as oppressive as is that of many tropical countries. The rainfall of Trinidad for last year, based on the records of 67 stations, was 73·37 inches. This was 0·36 inches below the average of the previous twelve years. The temperature in the shade never reaches 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and in private houses seldom touches 90 degrees. For three months in the year it constantly falls below 70 degrees at night, even at Port-of-Spain; and speaking generally the nights are cool. The mean temperature for last year at the Botanic Station, which is 66 feet above the sea, was 79·3. The Northern range of hills rises to a height of over 3,000 feet, and their ridges are almost constantly exposed to breezes from the Atlantic or the Caribbean Sea. No hill station, however, has as yet come into existence.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

35. There are 62 Post Offices, 14 Money Order Offices, and 32 Telegraph Offices in the Colony. The value of the Money Orders issued in the Colony was £49,000, exclusive of Inland Orders, which amounted to £14,000. The Mail contracts in force during the year were as follows:—

Service.	Line of Steamers	No. of Mails.	Colony's share of Subsidy.
England	Royal Mail	52	£ 2,900
New York	Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company.	26	100
Bolivar	Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company.	26	100
Round Trinidad and to Tobago.	Do. do.	42	4,200

There is also a mail service by the Gulf steamers between Port-of-Spain and the various stations in the Gulf of Paria. In the course of last year the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.'s contract for the English service was renewed with the Imperial Government for five years, and the Colony has made a new contract with them for the service round Trinidad and Tobago in substitution for that with the Orinoco Shipping and Trading Company. The service, when the contract is in full operation, will be much improved, two suitable vessels being constantly employed. The subsidy will be £7,000. The inland telegraph service is conducted by the Railway Department. Trinidad is connected with New York *via* Jamaica by the cable of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, which receives a subsidy of £3,000 a year. Telegrams to England can be routed from Jamaica *via* Bermuda and Halifax, thus passing only through British Colonies. The rate per word to England is, for the public, 5s. 1½d. News Telegrams are supplied daily from New York. There are three telephonic agencies at work connecting the outlying parts of Trinidad with the capital. Tobago is, at present, unconnected with Trinidad, but the feasibility of establishing regular communication between the two islands by wireless telegraphy is now under consideration.

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MILITARY DEFENCE.

36. The whole cost of Military defence is borne by the Colony. The amount expended last year was £9,045 11s. 8d., of which £1,805 4s. 1d. was due to the introduction of new arms. There is no Militia. The Volunteer Force consists of a permanent staff of three officers and five non-commissioned officers, and of bodies of Light Horse, Garrison Artillery and Light Infantry. The Cavalry numbered in 1900 18 officers and 105 non-commissioned officers and men, Artillery 32 men, and the Infantry 23 officers and 511 non-commissioned officers and men. The Police, who number four officers, excluding the Commandant of the Forces, who is *ex officio* Inspector-General of Police, and 557 non-commissioned officers and men, also receive military drill, and are liable to military service. Of this small force a proportion volunteered in 1899 for service in South Africa, and again last year for service on the West Coast. The whole force is now armed with the Martini-Enfield carbines and rifles and uses the '303 ammunition, and arrangements have been made by which the same can be used for practice by members of the Rifle Clubs, of which there are now at least four in existence.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

37. Life is easy in the Colony. The demand for labour is in excess of the supply. Hence wages are much higher than in other West Indian Islands. Leisure is the ideal of the Creole

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labourer, and he often regards a rest of three days in the week as more worth the earning than anything which superfluous money could procure. Hence the importation of East Indian labourers, who after a period of indenture go to swell the numbers of free labourers and of peasant proprietors. Though the immigrants are secured the opportunity of returning to their native country on terms within their means, there is not one in five who chooses to relinquish his prospects in this Colony. There is no inter-marriage between the two races, though the Indian born in the Colony often adopts European dress. The Indian is always thrifty: the negro very seldom so. Friendly societies, so-called, are numerous and popular, but none have taken any steps to secure financial soundness. With the exception of those managed by the churches they are generally in their provident aspect at best small insurance agencies with little real element of mutuality. The Raffeisen Bank scheme, to which allusion has been made above, will, if successful, mark an important step in the progress of the people. It should succeed, if at all, among the cane-farmers, who are the pick of their class; but though long discussed it is still only a scheme.

A visitor to the Colony unacquainted with the people is apt to form a wrong impression of their condition. A well-to-do peasant proprietor, who may possess cocoa and other property worth several thousand pounds, will, when at his work, wear rags of which an English tramp would be ashamed, while his wife will walk bare-legged to market with a basket of vegetables on her head. There is, however, one characteristic of the people which the stranger cannot fail to appreciate on first meeting them—their extraordinary cheerfulness and hospitality. The solitary traveller can visit the most remote parts of the Island with greater security from unfriendly interference than in any county in England.

Tobago is an interesting study. The island, whose early history is outlined by such names as Bloody Bay and Englishman's Bay, was reduced to the verge of bankruptcy on the failure of the sugar industry, but the people retained their cheerfulness. Money may be never seen, but the necessaries of life are never wanting. At the beginning of 1899 the fiscal union of Tobago with Trinidad was completed; and the former is now one of the dozen districts or wards of the Colony. Much more than the revenue of the smaller island is now being expended upon it, and there are indications of revival. Among these is an increase in the price of land.

The number of visitors both from England and from the United States increases year by year, and when the contemplated extension of the road system has made travelling in Trinidad more easy it will have solid claims as a winter resort. From January to March the climate is delightful. For readers of Kingsley the beauty of Trinidad may have been discounted, but the scenery of the Northern Hills is lovely and the colours at

sunset defy description. The capital possesses in the way of shops, electric light, telephones and clubs, the resources of a civilized town. A European hotel was opened on the Savannah or Park a few years ago to accommodate 53 guests, but soon proved too small and was shortly afterwards extended. On several occasions last year it was so full that applicants for admission were turned away; and the building is now being enlarged to provide room for 145 visitors.

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H. CLARENCE BOURNE,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

1st August, 1901.

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APPENDIX A.

REVENUE.

	1899.			1900.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Customs	267,398	5	3	270,162	9	6½
2. Port, Harbour, Wharf, &c., Dues ...	10,404	11	4	10,130	16	11½
3. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	184,360	17	11	203,859	11	1½
4. Fees of Court and Office Payment for specified Services and Reimbursements in Aid.	48,025	5	11	48,984	6	10½
5. Post Office... ..	9,175	18	11½	1,386	15	2
6. Government Railway, Tramroads and Telegraphs.	78,524	17	8	80,065	3	1
7. Rents of Government Property ...	1,582	16	5	1,224	0	5
8. Interest	11,098	11	1	11,493	14	9
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	8,691	1	1½	3,644	4	7
Total—Exclusive of Land Sales and Immigration Funds.	619,262	5	8	630,951	2	6
Land Sales, Royalties, &c.	31,872	5	9½	30,922	12	3½
Immigration Taxes—Receipts	30,204	19	11½	37,065	11	11
	681,339	11	5	698,939	6	8½
Amount expended in anticipation of Loan to be raised charged to Revenue in 1899 and 1900, now transferred to Loan Account.	—			113,363	0	2
Total Revenue	681,339	11	5	812,302	6	10½

APPENDIX B.

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EXPENDITURE.

	1899.			1900.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt	48,795	8	9	50,623	4	2
2. Pensions	15,550	9	5	16,891	0	0
3. The Governor and Legislature ...	6,162	13	3	5,920	15	7
4. Colonial Secretary's Department...	3,831	1	4½	3,903	8	4
5. Auditor-General's Department ...	3,394	10	8	3,138	0	10
6. Military Department	12,501	0	10½	9,045	11	8
7. Immigration Department... ..	10,916	6	9	14,439	10	2
8. Receiver-General's Department ...	16,763	12	8½	17,985	16	3½
9. Crown Lands and Survey Department.	12,493	10	11½	13,405	0	2
10. Customs Department	18,541	8	6½	8,304	16	5½
11. Police Department... ..	44,612	3	3	46,746	1	5
12. Registrar-General's Department ...	3,171	7	4	3,380	7	11½
13. Post Office and Telegraph Cable Subsidy.	21,920	13	9½	21,379	4	0
14. Port and Marine Department ...	9,323	15	9	9,763	1	4½
15. Printing and Stationery Department.	6,900	17	3	6,327	15	0
16. Government Analyst's Department	893	14	8	902	18	3½
17. Legal Department	11,853	9	4½	11,244	10	0
18. Magistracy	11,779	0	0½	12,077	8	1½
19. Wardens and Supervisors... ..	16,904	2	10	16,101	8	3
20. Medical Department	68,227	6	0½	67,326	11	7½
21. Education Department	45,052	6	6	44,888	6	4
22. Prisons, Reformatory and Industrial Schools.	13,318	2	8½	12,638	17	1
Carried forward	402,897	2	10	396,333	13	1½

TRINIDAD,
AND
TOBAGO,
1900.

APPENDIX B—continued.

Expenditure—continued.

	1899.			1900.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	402,897	2	10	396,333	13	1½
23. Transport	213	17	5½	106	16	11½
24. Ecclesiastical	10,600	0	0	10,675	0	0
25. Crown Agents—London	796	4	1	1,297	10	2
26. Botanic Gardens and Agricultural Department.	6,912	12	0	9,441	0	10
27. Fire Brigades	2,464	15	3½	2,490	11	1
28. Miscellaneous Services	26,787	13	0½	22,162	19	5½
29. Government Railway Department	53,251	0	10½	52,602	7	2½
30. Public Works Department, Re- current.	25,467	15	4½	30,257	6	5
31. Roads and Bridges, Recurrent ...	55,662	9	5½	61,508	17	4½
	585,063	10	5	586,976	2	7½
7A. Immigration—two-thirds charged to Special Funds.	21,830	9	5½	28,879	0	1½
29A. Railway Works, Extraordinary...	6,013	17	5	3,489	8	0½
32. Public Works, Extraordinary ...	29,489	12	8½	14,273	19	0
33. Roads and Bridges, Extraordinary	30,192	15	2½	25,459	19	10½
24 Expenditure on Railway Extension and Public Works Further Loan.	75,561	2	8	37,801	17	6
Total Expenditure	748,151	7	10½	696,880	7	2

APPENDIX C.

TRINIDAD
AND
TOBAGO,
1900

IMPORTS and EXPORTS for 1900 and the five previous years.

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Total Value.	Value, Exclusive of Bullion and Specie.	Total Value.	Value, Exclusive of Bullion and Specie.
	£	£	£	£
1895	2,276,864	2,040,872	2,065,104	1,791,867
1896	2,463,525	2,188,189	2,165,820	1,896,748
1897	2,161,231	1,992,537	1,994,926	1,823,818
1898	2,283,054	2,123,589	2,310,133	2,189,731
1899	2,535,935	2,282,981	2,572,891	2,419,475
1900	2,500,258	2,374,970	2,593,475	2,511,899

APPENDIX D.

VALUES of the MOST IMPORTANT EXPORTS during the last SIX YEARS were :—

Year.	Sugar.	Cocoa.	Asphalt.
	Value.	Value.	Value.
	£	£	£
1895	596,415	620,634	97,318
1896	700,347	452,141	106,920
1897	537,107	532,123	138,801
1898	602,045	812,272	113,829
1899	715,428	898,389	152,046
1900	552,158	978,632	177,460

TRINIDAD
AND
TOBAGO,
1900.

APPENDIX E.

SHIPPING IN 1900.

Entered.

From	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	21	8,479	30	55,648	51	64,127
U. S. America ...	33	17,194	30	40,152	63	57,346
B. N. America ...	37	7,473	12	14,056	49	21,529
B. W. I. and B. Guiana...	466	26,326	195	230,828	661	257,154
Venezuela ...	1,902	14,852	133	95,112	2,035	109,964
Other Countries ...	99	35,337	32	46,640	131	81,977
Total, 1900 ...	2,558	109,661	432	482,436	2,990	592,097
Total for 1899 ...	2,098	116,389	483	515,742	2,581	632,131

Cleared.

To	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	23	7,359	5	6,267	28	13,626
U. S. America ...	75	42,923	34	46,032	109	88,955
B. N. America ...	19	3,563	14	17,376	33	20,939
B. W. I. and B. Guiana...	440	13,849	176	199,878	616	213,727
Venezuela ...	1,878	15,413	182	174,589	2,060	190,002
Other Countries ...	79	20,920	25	38,228	104	59,148
Total, 1900 ...	2,514	104,027	436	482,370	2,950	586,397
Total for 1899 ...	2,103	119,351	480	510,816	2,583	630,167

APPENDIX F.

IMPORTS.

TRINIDAD
AND
TOBAGO,
1900.

Countries.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	£	£	£	£
Value of Imports from :—				
United Kingdom	852,857	796,359	949,685	881,394
British Colonies	201,779	224,520	229,680	169,344
United States	450,664	496,169	628,324	605,405
Venezuela	462,697	574,613	531,151	652,751
Other Foreign Countries...	188,234	191,395	197,125	190,864
Total	2,161,231	2,283,056	2,535,965	2,500,258

EXPORTS.

Countries.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports to :—				
United Kingdom	713,540	713,211	339,665	983,355
British Colonies	41,346	52,963	57,524	78,970
United States	628,264	863,455	885,772	792,439
Venezuela	254,760	255,419	318,000	289,054
Other Foreign Countries...	357,016	425,075	421,930	441,031
Total	1,994,926	2,310,933	2,572,891	2,584,549

Total Trade, 1900 £5,084,807
Average, 1897–1900 £4,735,752

TRINIDAD
AND
TOBAGO,
1900.

APPENDIX G.

NATIONALITY of VESSELS ENTERED.

Countries.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British	350,168	348,972	317,169
U.S. America	37,598	58,869	52,143
Other Countries	195,139	214,290	222,785
Total	582,905	622,131	592,092

The following figures for 1900 includes the tonnage of 55 ships of war and several private yachts :—

British	378,414
American	66,795
	<u>445,209</u>

Other nations, viz. :—

French	73,104
Dutch	45,902
Venezuelan	40,903
German	28,113
Italian	21,816
Norwegian	19,937
Russian	2,539
Portuguese	1,803
Spanish	1,650
Austrian	1,314
Danish	872
Greek	414
	<u>238,367</u>

British and American Vessels	445,209
Vessels of Other Nations	238,367
	<u>683,576</u>

APPENDIX H.

TRINIDAD
AND
TOBAGO,
1900.

LONDON PRICES of SUGAR and COCOA PER CWT.

Year.			Sugar (Vacuum Pan Crystals).				Cocoa.	
			s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	s.
1896	...	...	11	0	to	14	0	43 to 60
1897	...	...	11	0	„	13	6	65 „ 73
1898	...	...	15	6	„	16	6	71 „ 75
1899	...	...	14	6	„	16	0	72 „ 80
1900	...	...	13	9	„	16	3	68 „ 75

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.
1901.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 363.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 328.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1902.



LONDON:
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1902.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
341	Ceylon	1900
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900-1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900-1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900-1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900-1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar	"
360	Straits Settlements	"
361	Sierra Leone	"
362	British Honduras	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.

No. 363.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 328.)

ACTING GOVERNOR OLIVIER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House, Jamaica,

25th July, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith one copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1901, together with a copy of the Commissioner's report.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,

Administering the Government.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND
CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1901.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the Dependency for the year 1901 amounted to £9,030, which is less by £160 than the revenue of the previous year, but which compared with the average annual revenue of the five years 1895-99 shows an increase of £675.

2. The Customs duties yielded £3,537, an increase of over £275 on the previous year and on the average receipts from Customs of the five preceding years.

3. There was also an increase on the previous year of nearly £300 under the head of Revenue from Government Property. This is due to the payment of the balance of £300 on the sum of £1,350 for the purchase of 3,768 acres of land at West Caicos purchased for the purpose of fibre cultivation.

4. The receipts from interest were £133 less during the past year, the explanation being that the interest on investments for the latter half of the year was paid and brought to account in January of this year, and not taken credit for and brought to account before payment, as was done in the accounts of 1900.

5. The most marked drop in the revenue for the year compared with the revenue of the previous year will be found under the head of Post Office, and is due to a decrease of receipts from stamp speculators.

6. In 1900 a rush was made on the introduction of a new issue of postage stamps to purchase the remaining stock of the old issue, with the result that the receipts under the head "Post Office" increased from the annual average of the previous five years of £622 to £1,282 for the year. The sale of the new issue of stamps was not so great in 1901 and Post Office receipts fell to £868. For the current year the sales of postage stamps to collectors promise to be still less.

7. The following statement shows the several heads of revenue collected in 1901, compared with the year 1900 and the annual average for the preceding five years:—

Revenue.

	1901.			1900.			Annual average, five years 1895 to 1899.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Import Duties	3,557	9	3	3,280	0	2	3,270	5	4
Royalty on Salt exported ...	2,517	16	4	2,634	4	7	2,532	19	5
Port Dues	774	13	8	824	3	10	789	6	6
Licences and Internal Revenue	222	13	2	247	7	6	300	2	9
Payments for Specific Services	432	18	1	461	5	8	408	19	5
Post Office	868	18	7	1,282	17	1	622	15	4
Revenue from Government Property.	474	16	6	180	5	10	234	9	3
Interest	126	15	4	260	9	10	176	3	7
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	54	0	5	19	8	3	17	5	11
Total	9,030	1	4	9,190	2	9	8,352	7	6

8. The expenditure amounted to £7,989, leaving a balance of revenue over expenditure of £1,040.

9. There are no points of special interest to be noticed in the expenditure of 1901. The expenditure was of a normal character, and, although some £180 above the average annual expenditure of the years 1895-99, was under that of 1900.

10. Summarized, the expenditure of each of the years 1900 and 1901 was:—

	1900.	1901.
	£	£
Pensions	400	413
Personal Emoluments	4,092	3,922
Other Charges	2,358	2,058
Public Works... ..	806	1,141
Miscellaneous... ..	396	455
Total	8,052	7,989

11. The expenditure of 1901 under the several items, compared with the expenditure of 1900 and the average expenditure of the preceding five years, may be seen on reference to the following statement:—

Expenditure.

—	1901.	1900.	Average, five years 1895 to 1899.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions	418 0 0	400 5 11	467 10 6
Commissioner's Department ...	2,196 18 11	2,347 9 10	2,290 3 4
Judicial	530 14 3	553 5 6	554 18 7
Police	476 18 2	486 10 3	458 0 7
Prisons	182 19 4	181 5 6	210 5 10
Medical	467 8 3	544 8 2	419 0 5
Paupers	339 7 0	307 12 11	288 13 6
Education	600 0 0	600 0 0	575 1 4
Registration and Vaccination ...	21 15 6	24 5 5	28 17 5
Public Market	21 0 0	40 17 3	21 0 0
Library	50 0 0	50 0 0	50 0 0
Miscellaneous	404 6 7	346 7 0	307 2 11
Post Office	532 11 9	749 2 0	535 10 8
Lighthouse Department ...	279 16 4	237 15 6	280 10 11
Public Works Department ...	331 4 9	397 9 5	219 9 7
Do. Recurrent... ..	770 4 11	746 3 9	664 13 6
Do. Extraordinary ...	371 1 1	39 17 3	432 19 10
Total	7,989 6 10	8,052 15 8	7,803 18 11

12. The following table shows the total revenue and expenditure for 1901 and each of the previous five years:—

—	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.	1896.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue	9,030	9,190	8,032	7,232	9,477	9,706
Expenditure	7,989	8,052	7,644	8,061	8,384	7,382

13. No changes were made in taxation during the year. The inhabitants enjoy a freedom from direct taxes. The Customs Tariff, which has remained unaltered since the year 1884, is not a heavy one, the "Free" list being about the longest of any British Colony in the West Indies.

14. The Dependency has added to its assets during the year, by excess of revenue over expenditure, the sum of £1,040, which added to the balance of the previous year gives a total balance of assets on the 31st December, 1901, of £9,695.

Of this sum, £6,900 is invested in:

1. Queensland 3½ per cent. stock ... £1,000
2. Victoria 4 per cent. stock ... 1,500
3. South Australian Debentures ... 1,000

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, 1901.

7

4. Jamaica 4 per cent. stock	...	£400	
5. Jamaica Savings Bank	...	1,000	
6. Cash lent against scrip unissued			
Lagos loan	...	1,000	
7. Ditto ditto			
Sierra Leone loan	...	1,000	
			£6,900
And lent out at interest by Crown			
Agents	...		1,000
			£7,900
Making a total of	...		

profitably placed.

15. Of its available balances the Dependency had in 1891 out at interest the sum of £1,000, which in 1896 had been increased to £4,500, and which last year had reached the sum of £7,900. These figures show that the financial position is being slowly but surely strengthened.

16. The several items forming the assets and liabilities of the Dependency on the 31st December, 1901, may be seen on perusal of the following statement:—

Liabilities.		Assets.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Salt Pond Maintenance and Improvement Fund ...	260 1 9	In Colonial Chest ...	...
Board of Education ...	106 9 7	Cash—	...
Deposits ...	25 11 0	Crown Agents ...	...
Money Orders—		New York Agents ...	...
United Kingdom ...	91 13 8	Jamaica Treasurer ...	...
Jamaica ...	696 9 0	Remittances maturing and in transit ...	...
Savings Bank Funds ...	1,178 11 4	Bonds for Import Duties ...	...
		Invested Funds—	...
		Government ...	...
		Savings Bank ...	...
Balance of Assets ...	9,695 3 5		7,900 0 0
			1,213 4 11
			<u>£12,063 19 9</u>

17. The Colony is free from public debt.

18. The currency is composed of British gold and silver coins of all values. American gold is also a legal tender, the double eagle, \$20 (£4 3s. 4d.), passing for £4 2s., the eagle, \$10 (£2 1s. 8d.), for £2 1s., and the half eagle, \$5 (£1 0s. 10d.), for £1 0s. 6d. American silver dollars, half dollars, and quarter dollars are also in circulation at 4s. to the dollar. Smaller coinage is supplied by the Jamaica nickel tokens 1d., $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Gold is scarce, and, as there is no paper currency and no limit to the tender of silver coins, nearly the whole of the cash transactions of the place are made in silver.

19. There are no municipalities. The public streets in the towns of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour are maintained by the Government out of general revenue.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

20. The trade returns for the past year are satisfactory as compared with previous years. The total imports were valued at £30,817, an increase of £1,200 on the value of the imports of 1900 and on the average of the previous five years.

21. The total exports were valued at £40,148, an increase of £5,500 on the exports of 1900.

22. Of the total exports, produce and manufacture of the Colony represented £39,751, an increase of £6,362 on the year 1900 and £9,863 on the average of the previous five years.

23. As regards the imports of 1901, there is nothing very special to note in considering the details, beyond small increases on the previous year under food and textile fabrics and an increase, equal to a third, on spirits. The duty collected on spirits in 1901 was £817, an increase of £208 on the duty collected under this head during the previous year.

24. Of the total value of imports, £3,110 came from the United Kingdom, £4,092 from British Colonies, and £23,614 from foreign countries.

25. The imports from the United Kingdom were made up of textile fabrics £1,644, gin £267, crockery and earthenware £50, paint £75, electrical apparatus £55, and straw hats £99. The value of the remaining articles imported from the United Kingdom were less than £50 in each case.

26. Of the imports from British Colonies, articles to the value of £2,046 came from Jamaica and £1,341 from Canada. The imports from Jamaica of £50 and over in value were made up of aerated waters £62, ale and porter £53, rum £340, cigars £61, cotton textiles £143, sugar £397, Government stores £145, lumber £209, and shingles £50. Canada supplied us with bread and biscuit £100, butter £53, vegetables and fresh fruit £126, hay, oats, and bran £233, cotton textiles £61, sheep £137, galvanized

roofing £54, codfish £100, cured fish £80, flour £58, lumber and shingles £73, and sugar £52.

27. Of the imports from foreign countries, £21,605—70 per cent. of the total imports of the Dependency—came from the United States of America. It seems accordingly unnecessary to specify particularly the imports from that country, more especially as a reference to the following tables will afford ready data respecting the details of the chief articles imported and at the same time show the principal imports upon which the bulk of our Customs duties are collected:—

CHIEF ARTICLES OF IMPORT.

	1900.		1901.		Rate of Duty.
	Value.	Duty.	Value.	Duty.	
	£	£	£	£	
Books and Stationery	363	—	214	—	Free.
Boots and Shoes ...	990	99	999	99	10 per cent. <i>ad. val.</i>
Butter ...	721	69	673	66	8s. 4d. 100 lbs.
Cheese ...	194	22	213	26	6s. 3d. 100 lbs.
Flour, Wheat ...	1,963	454	2,186	513	3s. 9d. a barrel.
Hardware ...	233	23	251	25	10 per cent. <i>ad. val.</i>
Hay, Oats, Bran, and Corn.	1,134	—	1,146	—	Free.
Lard ...	687	97	825	103	4s. 2d. 100 lbs.
Lumber ...	879	72	375	27	{ Pitch pine, 9s p. m. Other, 6s. p. m.
Machinery and Tram Rails.	1,644	—	1,707	—	Free.
Meat, Salt ...	1,905	264	2,183	275	4s. 2d. 100 lbs.
Medicines ...	412	41	429	42	10 per cent. <i>ad. val.</i>
Milk, Condensed ...	594	59	593	59	10 per cent. <i>ad. val.</i>
Oil, Kerosine ...	412	55	290	39	1d. a gallon.
Rice ...	794	89	776	75	1s. 100 lbs.
Soap ...	301	58	347	66	3s. 100 lbs.
Spirits ...	534	609	706	817	4s. 6d. a gallon.
Sugar ...	1,227	386	1,280	420	{ Refined, 8s. 4d., 100 lbs. Other, 4s. 2d. 100 lbs.
Tea ...	169	62	154	59	6d. a lb.
Textile Fabrics ...	4,869	486	5,164	496	10 per cent. <i>ad. val.</i>
Tinned Provisions ...	1,210	121	1,242	124	10 per cent. <i>ad. val.</i>
Tobacco ...	482	58	495	54	{ Cigars, 10s. 1,000. Manufactured, 8s. 4d. 100 lbs. Other, 4s. 2d. 100 lbs.
Vegetables and fresh Fruit.	1,195	—	1,115	—	Free.
		3 124		3,385	
Total Customs Revenue for the year.	...	3,280	...	3,557	

28. The total value of imports for the year 1901 and the previous five years may be gathered from the following table:—

Year.	Value of Imports from			Total Value of Imports.		
	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
1896 ...	3,284 8 3	2,935 1 9	24,025 14 4	30,245 4 4		
1897 ...	3,478 7 10	4,443 10 8	25,317 4 1	33,239 2 7		
1898 ...	3,305 9 1	3,155 13 6	20,605 13 5	27,066 16 0		
1899 ...	2,684 18 2	3,289 3 6	19,733 9 7	25,707 11 3		
1900 ...	3,385 1 11	3,939 10 4	22,239 10 1	29,564 2 4		
1901 ...	3,110 15 6	4,092 2 1	23,614 5 11	30,817 3 6		

29. As regards details of exports, there was a decrease from 1,806,274 bushels of salt, valued at £23,491, exported in 1900, to 1,726,245 bushels, valued at £22,782, exported in 1901. Taking the average of the previous five years, the export of salt in 1901 showed a decrease of 30,627 bushels, but it may be said a larger quantity of salt would have been exported in 1901 had it not been for the want of suitable freight towards the end of the year.

30. Our salt was shipped during the years 1900 and 1901 to the following markets:—

	1900.		1901.	
	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.
		£		£
Canada	238,438	3,738	203,765	3,334
St. Pierre	34,853	566	45,957	733
Bermuda	3,590	45	190	2
Jamaica	62,275	790	59,254	745
Haiti	11,534	145	5,388	67
St. Domingo	20,110	256	10,710	133
Cuba	—	—	2,176	27
United States	1,432,458	17,898	1,398,755	17,737
South America	—	—	50	under £1
Newfoundland	3,016	50	—	—

31. The salt shipped to the American market obtained six cents a bushel for "coarse" and eight cents for "fishery," a price in each case fixed upon by the dealers in New York with the principal salt proprietors here on the understanding that all salt from the Turks and Caicos Islands for the markets in the United States passed through their hands.

32. There was an increase in the export of fibre from 349,482 lbs., valued at £5,080, exported in 1900, to 461,183 lbs., valued at £6,551, exported last year. Of the fibre exported last year 46,704 lbs., valued at £653, was shipped to Halifax and 414,479 lbs., valued at £5,898, to the United States.

33. The sponge industry has also had a successful year, and shows the substantial increase from £3,950, the value of sponge exported in 1900, to £9,277, the value of sponge exported in 1901.

34. This is an industry that unfortunately is not carried on wholly by the people of this place. Of the value of £9,277 of sponge exported last year, £6,615 was shipped to the Bahamas, and may be said to represent the gatherings taken from the Caicos Banks by the schooners from the Bahama Islands, leaving only £2,662 as the result of local enterprise. The sponge collected by the people of the place was done up in 1,051 bales and shipped to the United States.

35. Of the export of turtle shell, 120 lbs., valued at £120, represents the catch of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and was shipped at Jamaica. The Bahamas schooners carried off from these waters 899 lbs. of shell, valued at £817.

36. The following table shows the several exports, produce and manufacture, of the Colony, during the years 1900 and 1901:—

EXPORTS, PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURE,
OF THE COLONY.

	1900.		1901.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
Cotton ...	—	£ s. d.	lbs.	£ s. d.
	packages.	—	2,250	14 1 8
Fish, Salt ...	67	190 4 0	packages.	186 4 2
Horses ...	2	6 0 0	1	3 0 0
	bushels.		bushels.	
Salt ...	1,806,274	23,491 11 3	1,726,245	22,782 13 10
	box.			
Shells ...	1	0 10 0	—	—
	lbs.		lbs.	
Sisal Grass	349,482	5,080 15 5	461,183	6,551 5 3
(fibre).	strands. bales.		strands. bales.	
Sponge ...	73,100 691	3,950 15 0	49,500 1,051	9,277 4 8
	lbs.		lbs.	
Turtle ...	1,128	17 16 0	—	—
Turtle Shell ...	669	652 4 0	1,019	937 0 0
		33,389 15 8		39,751 9 7

In 1899 the value of salt exported amounted to £21,138, and sponge to £2,004—in both instances below the exports of last

year. On the other hand the fibre industry had a very good year and returned an export of £7,493, the highest value since the industry was started.

37. The total value of exports of the Colony for the year 1901 and the previous five years is given in the following table:—

Year.	Value of Exports, Produce and Manufacture, of Turks and Caicos Islands, to—			Total Value of Exports.
	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1896 ...	240 0 0	6,850 12 9	24,300 0 10	31,497 14 5
1897 ...	—	11,374 6 0	29,790 18 1	43,303 15 5
1898 ...	—	6,608 11 9	16,930 5 7	24,810 12 4
1899 ...	—	4,650 8 1	26,871 4 10	31,909 19 2
1900 ...	291 4 0	7,384 1 1	25,714 10 7	34,584 1 0
1901 ...	—	12,290 0 6	27,461 9 1	40,148 17 1

38. Enjoying no direct line of communication with the United Kingdom, exports from this Dependency intended ultimately for the London market have been sent to Halifax or New York for re-shipment to England. This accounts for no exports being shown, with the exception of two small amounts in 1896 and 1900, as having been made to the United Kingdom. The fibre exported last year to Halifax, valued at £653, was shipped for the home market.

39. A temporary arrangement has been made by which the fibre crop of the present season of the West Caicos Plantation is being taken direct to London by the monthly steamer of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company from Jamaica, calling at West Caicos on her way home.

40. There were 23 grants of small plots of land, comprising in all 190 acres, made during the year. Of these 17 were by purchase at an average price of six shillings and sixpence an acre. There was also one grant of 3,768 acres by completed purchase at seven shillings and a penny an acre at West Caicos. Of this land about 1,800 acres are under sisal (fibre) cultivation and new land is being planted out.

41. The shipping, steamers and sailing vessels, entered inwards and outwards at the ports of this Dependency may be seen from the following table:—

Steamers.

Nationality.	1900.				1901.			
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British ...	24	16,248	24	16,248	27	18,010	27	18,010
United States ...	42	85,782	42	85,782	46	93,648	46	93,648
Total ...	66	102,030	66	102,030	73	111,658	73	111,658
<i>Sailing Vessels.</i>								
British ...	223	18,510	227	18,528	177	15,565	170	14,710
Dominican ...	13	114	13	120	23	340	25	348
French ...	6	755	6	755	7	939	7	939
Haytian ...	7	106	6	53	9	164	6	140
United States ...	46	24,514	44	23,124	35	23,077	40	25,478
Total ...	295	43,999	296	42,580	251	40,085	248	41,615

With one exception the steamers entering and clearing during the year 1901 were the subsidized steamers of the Pickford and Black line from and to Halifax once a month, and the steamers of the Clyde line from and to New York at intervals of from 10 to 18 days according to the season of the year.

42. The following table gives a comparative statement of total shipping, omitting ships of war, inwards and outwards for the last five years:—

Year.	Inwards.			Outwards.		
	Steam.	Sail.	Total.	Steam.	Sail.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1897 ...	106,072	58,679	164,751	106,072	57,551	163,623
1898 ...	81,983	38,295	120,278	81,983	40,846	122,829
1899 ...	75,258	43,774	119,032	75,258	43,614	118,872
1900 ...	102,030	43,999	146,029	102,030	42,580	144,610
1901 ...	111,658	40,085	151,743	111,658	41,615	153,273

LEGISLATION.

43. Nine ordinances were passed during the year, the principal being No. 3, "To consolidate, define, and amend the Law of Evidence," and No. 9, "To repeal the existing law on the subject of education and to make further and other provisions in lieu thereof."

44. The Evidence Ordinance is adopted from the Indian Evidence Act. The chief alteration from the law as it existed is that in all criminal proceedings the accused and the husband and wife of the accused are made competent witnesses.

45. The object of the new Education Ordinance is referred to in the next paragraph.

EDUCATION.

46. The primary education of the Dependency is under the care and management of a Board, the Government making an annual grant of £600 for the purpose. Out of this grant six Government schools, with teachers in charge on fixed salaries varying from £40 to £90 a year, are maintained, and assistance given to two private schools in the sparsely populated districts of "the Bight" and "Five Cays" in the Caicos Islands. These schools are the venture of two widows who receive an allowance of ten shillings a month each to keep them going.

47. No fees are charged at the Government schools. At the two private schools a charge is made by the schoolmistress of 1½d. a week for each child. When two or more children of the same family attend the fees for each child are slightly reduced.

48. The average number of children on the books of the Government schools during the year 1901 was 548 with an average attendance of 302. The cost of each school with the number of pupils on the roll may be seen from the following table:—

Government School at	Number of Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Cost during 1901.
Principal Settlements.			
Grand Turk	163	79	£ 95
Salt Cay	49	31	66
Cockburn Harbour	100	68	86
Caicos Islands.			
Kew	74	49	65
Blue Hills	79	34	62
Lorimers	83	41	72

49. The average number attending the two private assisted schools was about fifteen at each school.

50. It is a general complaint with the teachers that they cannot get the parents to send their children regularly to school. In the three principal settlements of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour the excuse given is the want of decent clothes. In the Caicos Islands the same excuse is at times made, but more frequently it is that the children are wanted to assist their parents in cultivating the family field or plantation.

51. In the Caicos Islands the attendances compare well with the attendances at the schools in the principal settlements. This goes much to the credit of the parents of the children and the children themselves, as in some instances the distances from the

homestead to the school are great and the condition of life quite different to that in the principal settlements. In these outlying Caicos Islands the head of a family has, as a rule, his plantation of ten acres or more to cultivate. It is to his plantation that he looks in a great measure for the daily bread of his family. Should his cultivation be neglected and his crop fail him he lacks other sources of any more secured nature for the support of his wife and children. Education has done much for the people of the Caicos, but it has not as yet tutored them to provide against a rainy day. They cultivate only for their immediate wants, and they live as they reap.

52. To improve the attendances at the schools in the three principal settlements of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour, an ordinance was passed last year to enforce regular attendance. The principles of the compulsory sections of the ordinance have been taken from the law of Bermuda. Under the ordinance the parent or guardian of every child over six and under thirteen years of age living within a mile and a half of the Government school is liable to the payment of a school rate of ten shillings for each half year. To be relieved from the payment of this school rate the Board of Education must be satisfied—

- (1) That the child has attended school at least four days out of every five days on which the school had been open during the half year.
- (2) That if the attendances have not been regular, the absences are due to sickness or infirmity, or to some other reasonable cause satisfactory to the Board.
- (3) That if not a pupil at the Government school, the child has been receiving during the half year sufficient education by private tuition; or
- (4) That the child has reached the age of ten years and has been granted a certificate by the Board of his ability to read and write and of a knowledge of elementary arithmetic.

The result of this legislation is awaited with interest. The ordinance has not been in operation for a sufficient time to comment on its working.

53. The total expenditure from the Education grant of £600 last year amounted to £578, leaving a balance of some £21 to be carried forward to the credit of the Education fund for this year.

54. The census taken last year showed that of the total population of 5,287, there were 2,409 who could read and write and 706 whose attainments did not extend beyond being able to read.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

55. There are no hospitals, asylums, or reformatories in the Dependency. The population is too small and scattered throughout the several islands of the Dependency for the establishment of such institutions at any centre, if even the necessity for such institutions were felt. The hospital that was established some years ago at Grand Turk was closed after being opened several years, as it was found that it was not wanted. The inhabitants generally speaking are a strong healthy race of African descent comparatively free from zymotic and febrile diseases. At Grand Turk accommodation is provided in a separate and convenient building for the treatment of infectious diseases. This accommodation has not been required for the past seven years and then only for two cases of yellow fever landed from a vessel in harbour.

56. Any person of unsound mind not likely to recover and requiring trained care and treatment is sent to the lunatic asylum at Jamaica, at the cost of this Dependency, for maintenance in the asylum. The paupers are given out-door relief, which amounted last year to £214, a rate of about £5 16s. per annum to each pauper on the list.

57. To turn from the unfortunate to the more fortunate. The total sum standing to the credit of 186 depositors in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1900, was £1,050. By deposits during 1901 of £600 and withdrawals of £462, 183 depositors had standing to their credit at the end of the year the sum of £1,187.

58. The following statement of assets and liabilities on 31st December, 1901, is satisfactory, showing as it does that the liabilities of the Savings Bank are fully covered by moneys invested in the name of the Bank.

Liabilities.			Assets.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Due Depositors, including Interest.	1,187	19 3	Invested in Jamaica Government Debentures.	200	0 0
Cash due Public Chest	37	1 1	In Jamaica Government Savings Bank.	1,048	16 7
Assets in excess of Liabilities.	23	16 3			
	£1,248	16 7		£1,248	16 7

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

59. There has been no change in the strength of the police force during the past year. The force consists of a corporal, six constables, and twelve district constables.

The cost of the police in 1901 was £476, compared with £486 in the previous year.

60. The prison, which has separate cell accommodation for ten male and four female prisoners, is at Grand Turk. The daily average in prison during 1901 was $1\frac{1}{2}$ compared with 2 the average for the previous year. The cost for the year was, for prison staff £150, for other charges £32 19s. 4d.

The total number of offences reported to the magistrates was 69, made up of 21 cases against the person, 11 against property other than praedial larceny, and 37 other offences. Of these, 14 cases were dismissed by the magistrate, 54 summarily convicted, and one referred for trial in the Supreme Court.

61. Of the 54 summarily convicted, 41 were fined, one went to prison in lieu of fine or surety, 3 were sentenced to peremptory imprisonment, and 9 bound over. The one criminal case before the Supreme Court for the year resulted in an acquittal.

62. The following comparative table shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals in the Courts of this Dependency for the last five years:—

—	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Offences reported to Police ...	181	195	176	131	69
Persons apprehended or summoned	176	184	175	128	69
Summary Convictions—					
Offences against the person ...	34	30	51	30	16
Praedial larceny... ..	5	3	7	6	—
Offences against property ...	17	5	7	10	7
Other offences	66	83	65	57	31
Convictions in Supreme Court—					
Offences against the person ...	2	1	2	2	—
Praedial larceny... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Offences against property ...	4	3	1	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	10	—
Persons acquitted—					
Magistrates' Courts	43	58	38	22	14
Supreme Court	5	2	4	3	1

63. The greatly reduced number of offences reported to the police during 1901 compared with previous years may be attributed to fewer complaints of a trivial nature having been made.

VITAL STATISTICS.

64. The census taken on the 1st April, 1901, returned the total population of the Turks and Caicos Islands on that date at 5,350 persons. Of these 63 were on board vessels in the harbour not belonging to the Dependency. Deducting the 63 the population proper of the Dependency was 2,204 in the Turks Islands and 3,083 in the Caicos Islands, in all 5,287. There were 2,714 children of 15 years and under, leaving only 2,573 persons of more mature age. Of the total population of 5,287, 4,991 (2,263 males and 2,728 females) were natives of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

65. The returns of 1901 give an increase of 543 on the population taken by the census of 1891, but there has been no very marked increase in the last 40 years, as may be seen on reference to the following table:—

Year.			Males.	Females.	
1861	...	...	2,128	2,244	4,372
1871	...	...	2,274	2,449	4,723
1881	...	...	2,232	2,500	4,732
1891	...	...	2,211	2,533	4,744
1901	...	...	2,408	2,879	5,287

66. With an average annual birth rate for the decade of 38 per thousand and death rate 20 per thousand—an increase of three per thousand in the birth rate and a decrease of four per thousand in the death rate compared with the rates given for the previous ten years—the small increase of the population in the last ten years and the excess in the number of children up to 15 years of age over the rest of the population may be accounted for by emigration to Hayti, St. Domingo, and Cuba, where employment is readily found by the natives of this place.

67. The population of 1901 was composed of

—				Females.	Total
White	...	...	...	150	192
Coloured	...	...	...	572	791
Black	...	...	...	1,686	1,896
Total	...	...	...	2,408	2,879

and the occupation given as

—				Males.	Females.	Total.
Professional	...	...	...	49	30	79
Domestic	...	...	...	17	153	170
Commercial	...	...	...	100	25	125
Agricultural	...	...	...	160	273	433
Industrial	...	...	...	1,016	789	1,805
Indefinite and non-productive	...	...	...	1,066	1,609	2,675
Total	...	...	...	2,408	2,879	5,287

68. Touching the civil condition of the people, 748 males and 803 females were married. There were 70 widowers and 241 widows, leaving 3,424—1,590 males and 1,834 females—unmarried.

For the year 1901 there were 218 births and 163 deaths compared with 198 births and 133 deaths in 1900.

69. The general state of the public health of the Dependency may be viewed as good. At Grand Turk during the period March to August, 1901, there were, however, several cases of whooping cough resulting in 26 deaths, chiefly of infants of two years and under, out of a total of 57 deaths for the year. There were also a few cases of measles and influenza at Grand Turk and Cockburn Harbour; otherwise the Dependency was free from diseases of zymotic type.

The porous nature of the sandy soil of these low-lying flat islands leaves little to be done by man in the way of drainage. In his report for last year the Government Medical Officer wrote: "There is no system of draining off rainfall and waste water; nature disposes of these in an admirable rapid way, by means of the hot sun, strong winds, and porous soil."

70. The climate of these Islands is healthy, but as relaxing as most tropical climates for persons of European descent. The scarcity of fresh meat, fruit, and vegetables, and the frequent resort to "canned" provisions, make, however, the conditions of life in the Turks and Caicos Islands yet more enervating to such persons.

71. The rainfall during the past year recorded each day at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk,—Latitude 21.21 N., Longitude 71.07 W., height above mean sea level 11.3 feet,—was 29.52 inches, about five inches more than the average of the previous ten years. Rain fell on 154 days, the heaviest fall in the 24 hours being recorded on the 26th August, when 3.30 inches fell. On that day the wind from the south-east measured 36 miles an hour, the maximum force for the year.

72. The maximum heat registered was 94 degrees in the shade on 25th September, and the minimum temperature 53 degrees on

the 21st February. On that day the wind was from the north-west and reached the velocity of 34 miles an hour.

73. The following table gives the mean readings for each month of the year of the Barometer, the Thermometer, and the Anemometer, and the total rainfall for each month:—

Month.	Means.				Actual Rainfall recorded.
	Barometer 7.30 a.m.	Air Temperature.		Wind Force. Miles per hour.	
		Max.	Min.		
January ...	30.06	81	68	11	1.84
February ...	30.06	82	69	9	.22
March ...	30.09	83	71	14	.79
April ...	30.01	84	72	9	.38
May ...	29.99	86	74	10	.98
June ...	30.03	90	78	13	.70
July ...	30.01	88	75	13	4.83
August ...	30.02	89	77	12	5.05
September ...	29.97	90	77	10	.95
October ...	29.91	88	74	8	4.86
November ...	29.99	82	70	11	5.19
December ...	30.03	82	70	11	3.73

The direction of the wind was observed from the north on 24 days, the north-east on 46, the east on 124, the south-east on 116, the south on 23, the south-west on 8, the west on 4, and the north-west on 20 days.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE.

74. We have no internal postal, telegraph, or telephone service. Our mails are brought by the subsidized steamer of the Pickford and Black line leaving Halifax about the 15th of each month for Jamaica calling at Bermuda and Grand Turk en route. The subsidy paid by this Dependency is £500 a year, half of which is contributed by the Imperial Government. The length of the voyage from Halifax to Grand Turk is seven days. The steamer leaves Jamaica on her return journey about the 27th of each month, and two days later calls at Grand Turk, proceeding via Bermuda to Halifax. The bulk of our mails are, however, carried to and from New York direct by the steamers of the Clyde line, which sail at intervals of from 10 to 18 days and make the voyage between the two places in five days. By these steamers letters from this Dependency, transhipped at New York, have been delivered in London on the fourteenth day after leaving here.

75. The revenue of the Post Office for the year 1901 was £868, made up of

<i>Receipts.</i>				
Sale of Stamps	...	...	...	£262
Commission on Money Orders	...	...	...	44
Sale of Stamps to Collectors	...	...	...	562
				£868
<i>Expenditure.</i>				
Local	...	...	...	25
Conveyance of Mails	...	...	£507	
Less Contribution from Imperial Government	...	...	250	257 282
Net Revenue Post Office				£586

76. The estimated number of letters and postal matter beyond the seas dealt with by the local post office during the year 1901 may be seen on reference to the following table:—

	United Kingdom.		Other Places.		Total.
	From.	To.	From.	To.	
Letters	2,500	2,600	11,500	12,500	29,100
Postcards	90	100	100	112	402
Newspapers	7,000	728	12,000	4,000	23,728
Book packets	160	38	175	30	403
Parcels	157	20	113	53	343

77. Money orders to the value of £1,567 were issued in the Dependency during the year 1901 on the United Kingdom, and orders for £361 drawn in the United Kingdom paid in the Colony. The money order transactions with other places abroad amounted to £1,247 issued and £45 paid in the Dependency. The bulk of these transactions was with Jamaica.

78. The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica is landed at Grand Turk. The Company supply a news bulletin daily, in respect of which an annual grant of £120 is made to them by the Dependency. The telegraph rate to England is 3s. a word, to Halifax 2s., and to Jamaica 1s.

GENERAL.

79. A brief comparison of the condition of these islands fifty years ago with their state to-day may here find a suitable place. In 1852, with a population of 3,260, the total revenue of the Government, from all sources, was £10,690 and the expenditure £10,370. The imports were valued at £29,460, and the exports

produce and manufacture, of the Colony at £22,166. Of the exports 1,061,776 bushels of salt alone represented £22,034.

80. During the succeeding twenty-five years the population had increased to 4,723. The revenue of the Government reduced to £7,500 with an expenditure of £7,100. This was due to retrenchment consequent on the annexation in 1873 of the Turks and Caicos Islands to the Colony of Jamaica, a move brought about by the people of the Islands themselves, as they considered their separate administration was costing them too dearly. The value of imports at that time fell to £22,900, while the value of the exports had increased to £26,700. Of this sum £23,000 represented the value of 1,641,384 bushels of salt exported.

81. To-day, viewing the trade of the place generally, the position is satisfactory. Without increase of taxation, indeed it can be said with a reduced tariff, the annual revenue has increased to £9,000 with an expenditure of £8,000 and the value of the imports has increased to £30,800 and exports to £39,700. Of these exports 1,726,245 bushels of salt represent £22,780. Practically speaking our markets remain unchanged, the United States still doing the bulk of our trade.

82. It results therefore that while the market price of salt has fallen off, and salt no longer forms 99 per cent. of the exports, the production of salt has increased and the total value exported has remained unchanged during the last fifty years.

83. Although it is to the salt industry of these islands that we owe, and ever will owe, our existence, yet the growth within recent years of two other industries has helped to cement the satisfactory financial position of the Dependency to-day. I refer to the sponge industry and to the fibre industry—more especially to the fibre industry.

84. A quarter of a century ago sponge gathering afforded but little employment for the people. The value of sponge exported from these islands averaged about £100 annually. Ten years ago, *i.e.*, in fifteen years, the industry had increased its export to £600. Last year the value of sponge exported amounted to £9,277. There are at present three sponge establishments working in the Caicos Islands where the sponge is gathered on the banks. The sponge is not of the quality of the Mediterranean sponge, but it finds a ready sale in the United States market at a fair price.

85. It is only within the last twelve years that fibre growing has been attempted. The first exportation of fibre was made in 1890 when £49 worth was shipped. Five years later, in 1895, 95,788 lbs. of fibre, valued at £620, were shipped. Last year 461,183 lbs. were exported, valued at £6,551.

86. With regard to the agricultural resources of the Dependency there is little to say in respect of the cultivation of the

Turks Islands, where salt produced from sea water by solar evaporation is the sole industry, and where the climatic conditions are favourable to its production. The absence of rain for weeks at a time, with a hot dry wind—by which alone the salt is produced—and a sandy soil, make cultivation of any sort next to impossible and but little is consequently attempted. According to the census of last year there were 9 male and 15 female agricultural labourers in the Turks Islands. Even these, or some of these, may have been on a visit from the Caicos Islands at the time of taking the census, so small is the attempt at cultivation.

87. In the Caicos Islands the soil is somewhat less sandy and the climatic conditions better suited to crop growing. The annual rainfall in those islands is about 35 inches compared with an average of 24 inches in the Turks Islands. But even here, unfortunately, cultivation is an uphill task and the people grow but little beyond their own wants. Fruit and vegetables are imported from Hayti and St. Domingo for the Turks Islands market. It is in the Caicos Islands that the two fibre plantations are situated and working successfully—one at East Caicos and the other at West Caicos. They have about 2,200 and 1,800 acres of land under cultivation respectively, and are each extending their areas of cultivation. On the East Caicos there are four, and on the West Caicos plantation two, fibre cleaning machines worked by either steam or oil. Each machine is capable of turning out 1,000 lbs. of fibre a day.

88. There are several thousand acres of vacant land in the Caicos Islands suitable for fibre growing, which, if properly planted out, would give, in from three to four years—should the present price of fibre, 5*d.* to 5½*d.* a pound, be maintained—a fair return for money invested.

DOUGLAS YOUNG,

Commissioner,

Grand Turk,

Turks and Caicos Islands.

24th May, 1902.

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